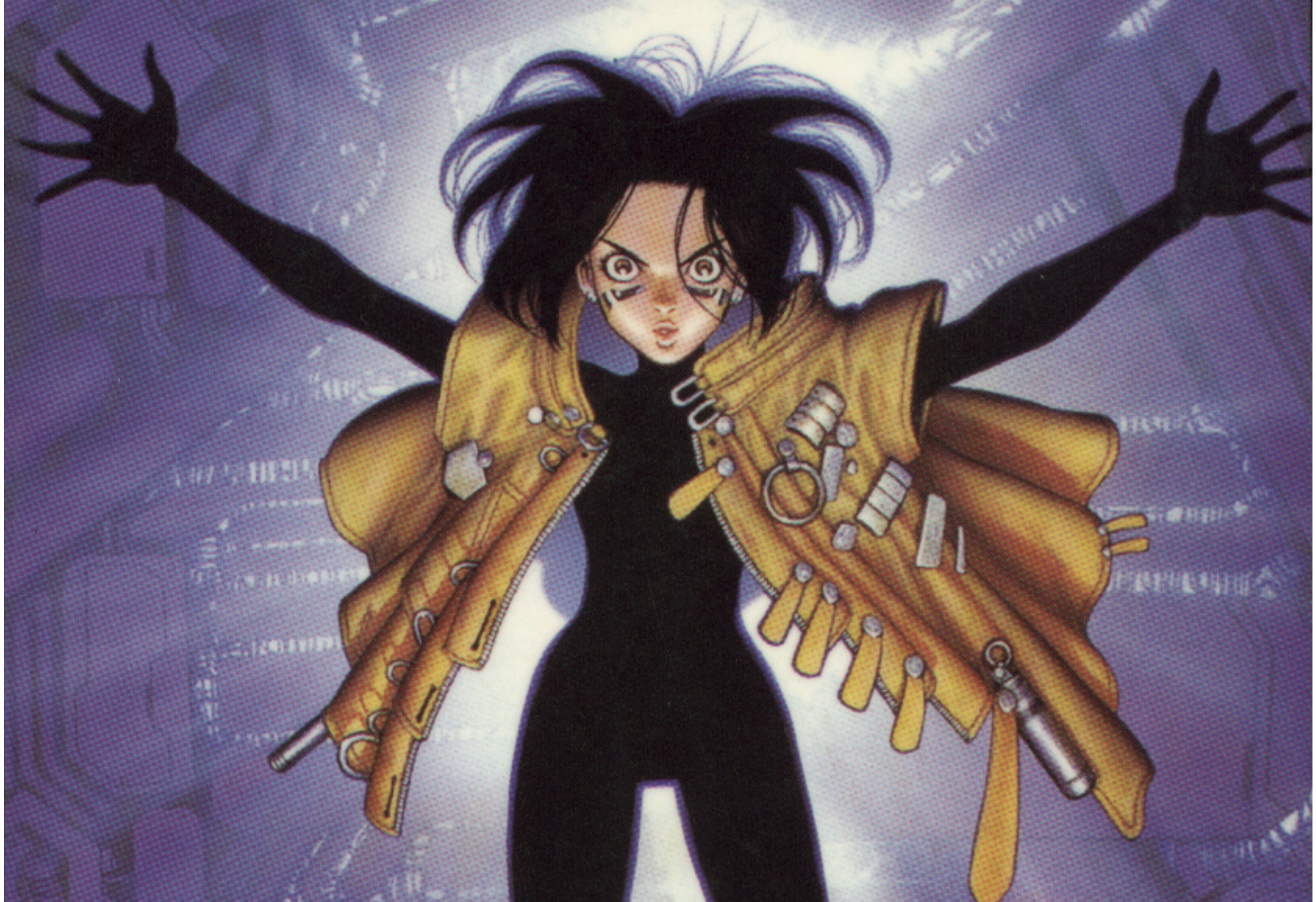


Battle Angel Alita

ANGEL'S ASCENSION



VIZ GRAPHIC NOVEL

FALLEN ANGEL

A BATTLE ANGEL ALITA™ GRAPHIC NOVEL

STORY AND ART BY

YUKITO KISHIRO

C O N T E N T S

NO BRAINER

Challenge 1: Revelation5

OUROBOROS II

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LAST BLADE

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Challenge 5: Conquest.....171

EPILOGUE239

This volume contains BATTLE ANGEL ALITA PART EIGHT in its entirety.

STORY AND ART BY YUKITO KISHIRO

**ENGLISH ADAPTATION BY
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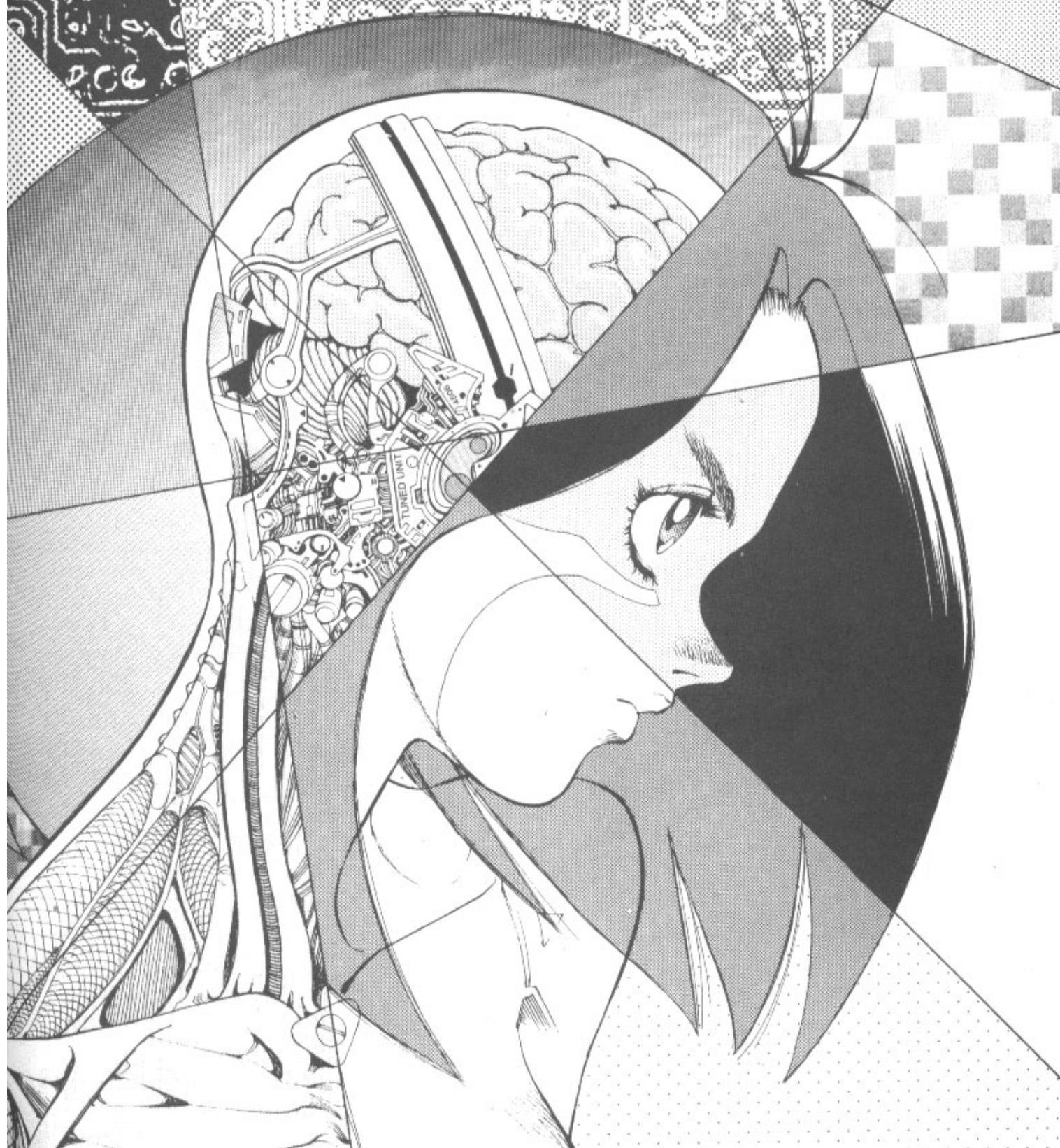
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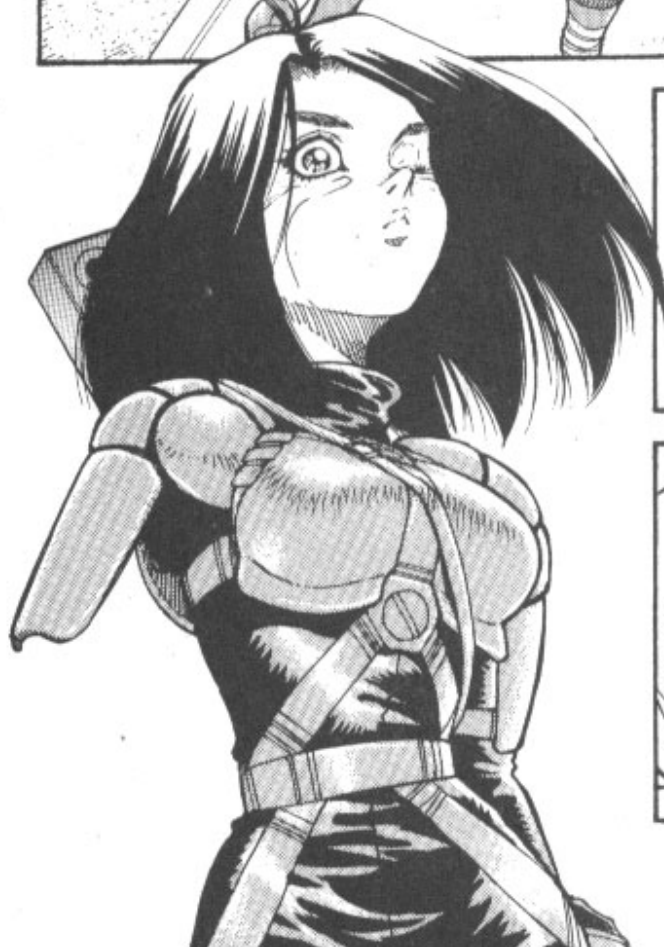
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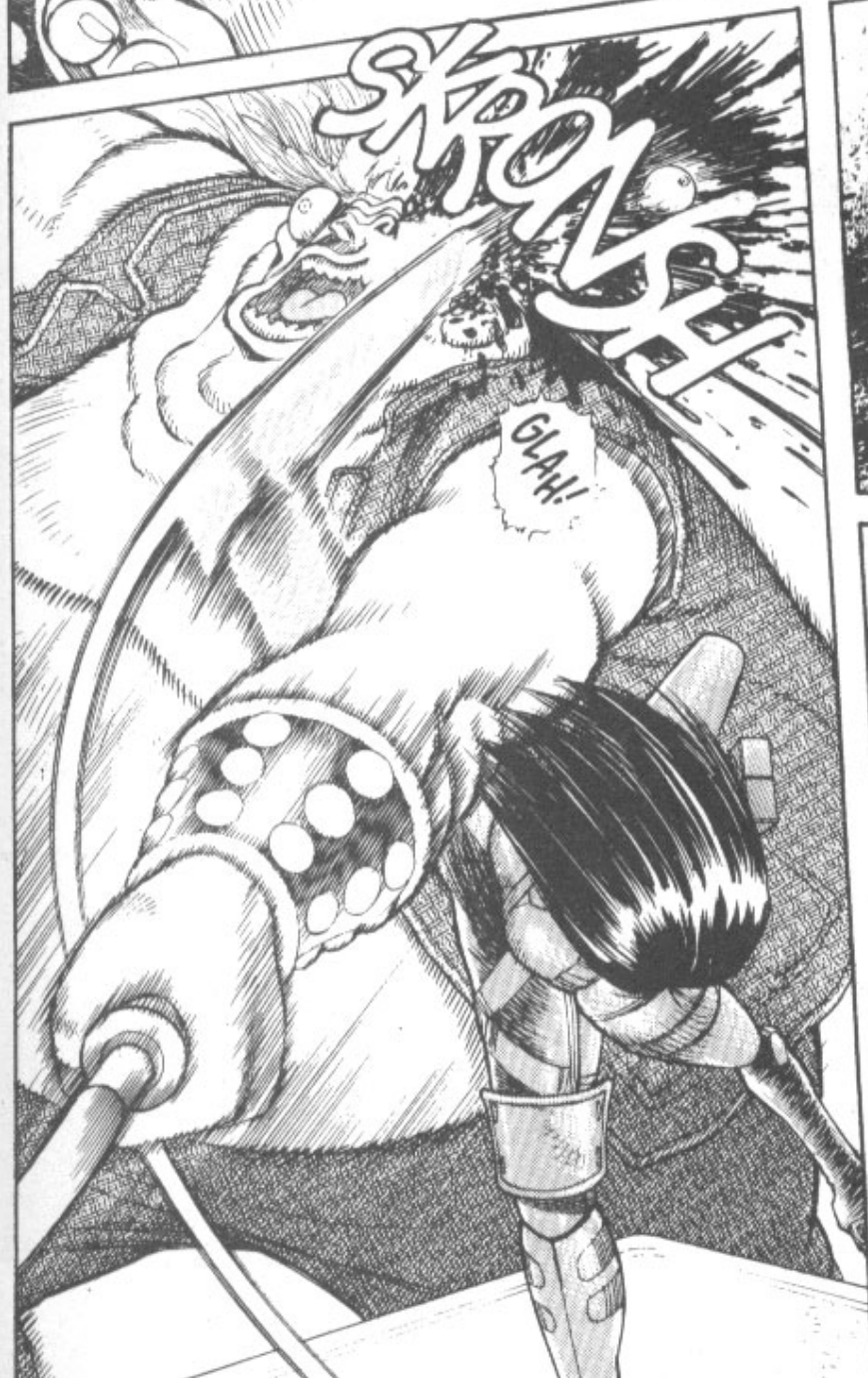
BATTLE ANGEL ALITA
TEARS OF AN ANGEL
KILLING ANGEL
ANGEL OF VICTORY
ANGEL OF REDEMPTION
ANGEL OF DEATH
ANGEL OF CHAOS
FALLEN ANGEL
ANGEL'S ASCENSION

NO BRAINER

Challenge 1: Revelation



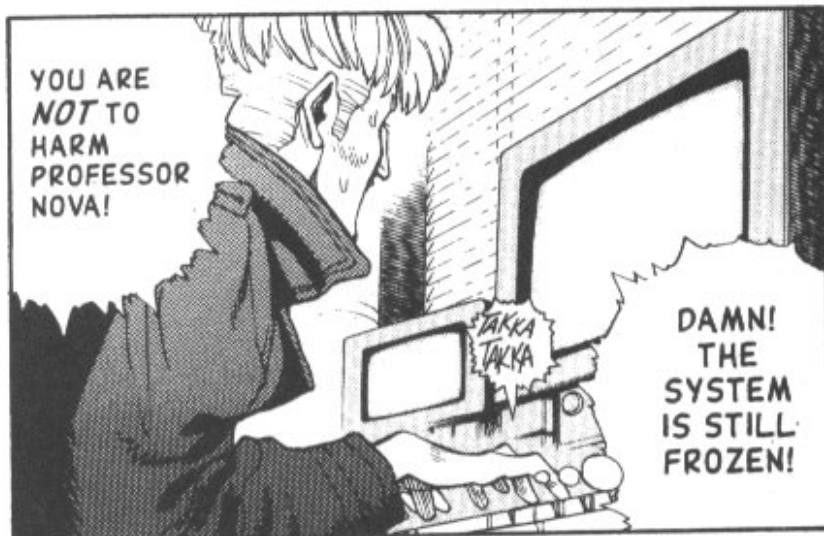








STOP
IT,
A-1!



YOU ARE
NOT TO
HARM
PROFESSOR
NOVA!

DAMN!
THE
SYSTEM
IS STILL
FROZEN!



DON'T
LISTEN
TO HIM,
ALITA!

HE ALREADY
MADE A
DEAL WITH
MY FATHER!
HE SOLD
YOU OUT!



MY FATHER'S
A *DEMON*,
SOWING
PAIN AND
SUFFERING
UPON THIS
EARTH!

DON'T
HESITATE--

JUST *KILL*
HIM!



KAOS...

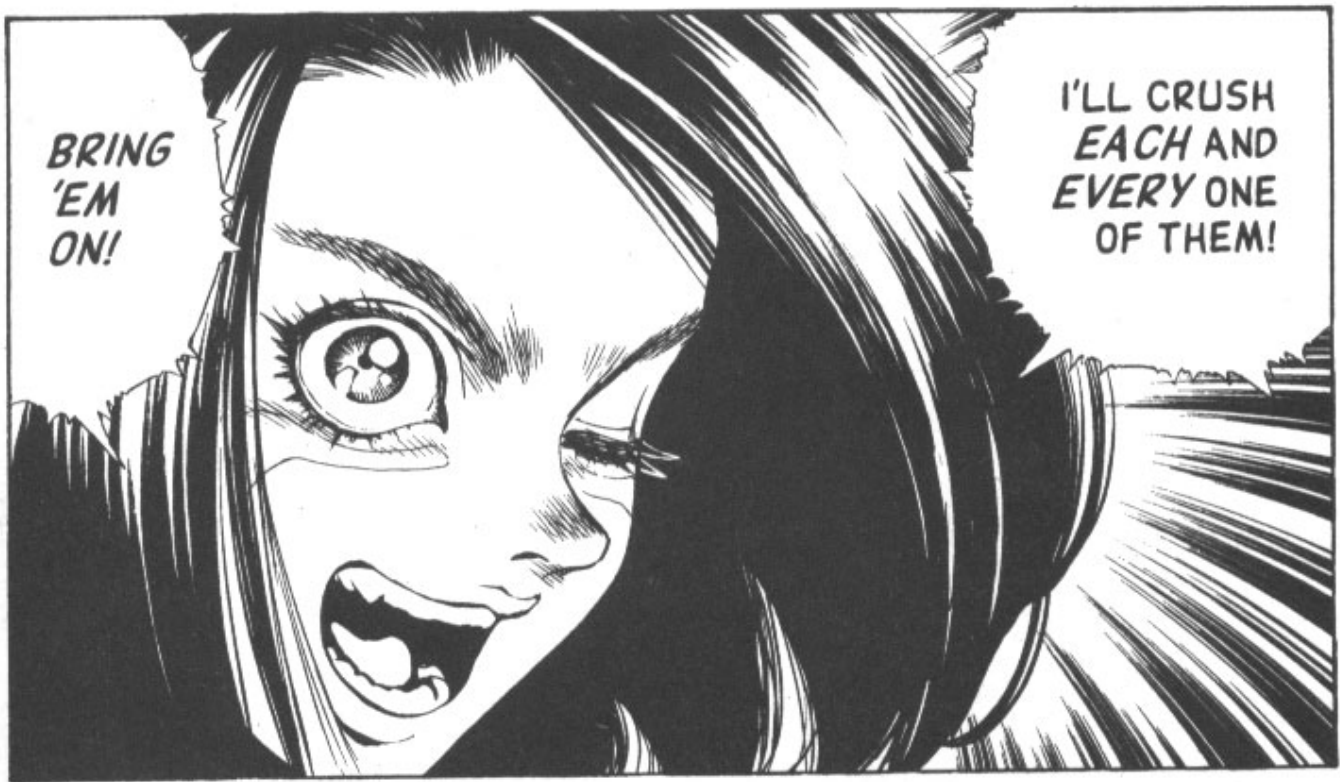
CHK



PAIN?
SUFFERING?
I GAVE THE
WORTHLESS
HUMANS OF
THE SURFACE
A *PURPOSE--*
A *FUNCTION*
IN MY EXPERI-
MENTS!

I SHOULD
BE
HONORED,
REWARDED
FOR MY--





BRING
'EM
ON!

I'LL CRUSH
EACH AND
EVERY ONE
OF THEM!

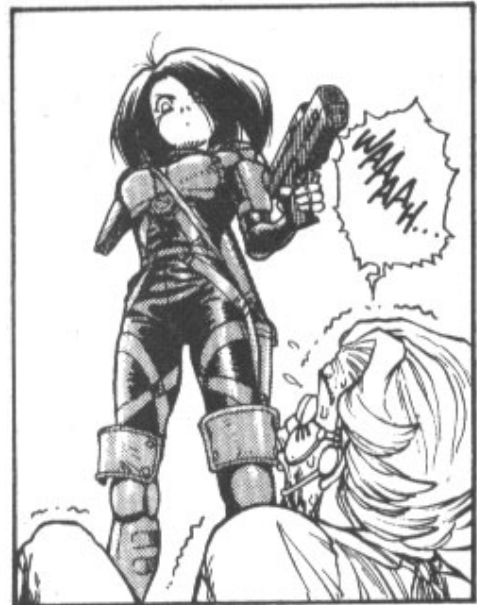


.....

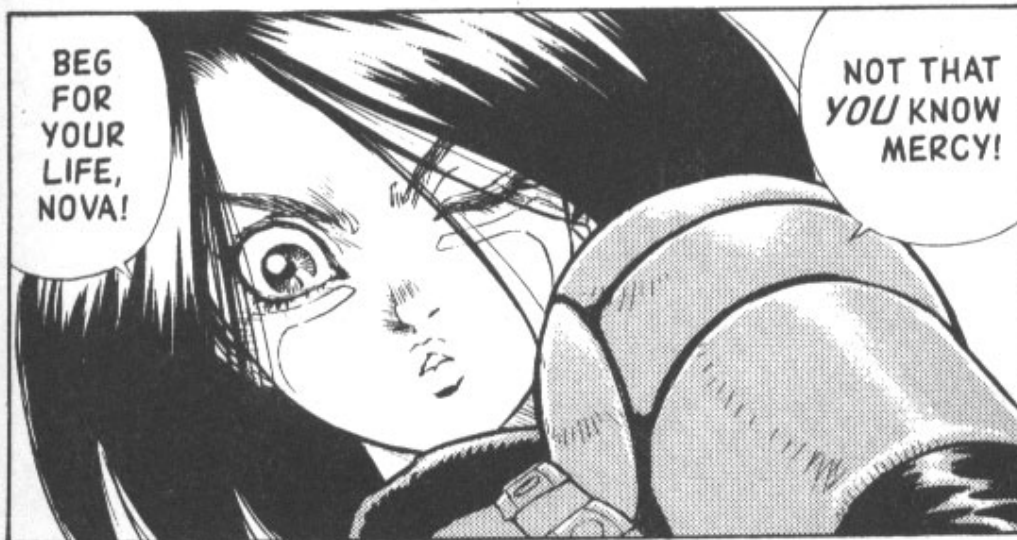


SO
STRONG
!

I DON'T
KNOW WHAT
HAPPENED SINCE
YESTERDAY,
BUT SOMETHING
HAS *CHANGED*
IN HER!



WAAAH...



BEG
FOR
YOUR
LIFE,
NOVA!

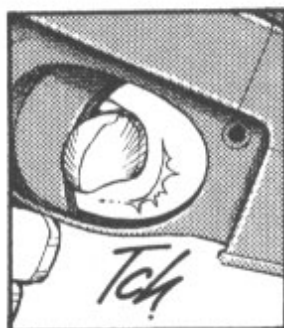
NOT THAT
YOU KNOW
MERCY!

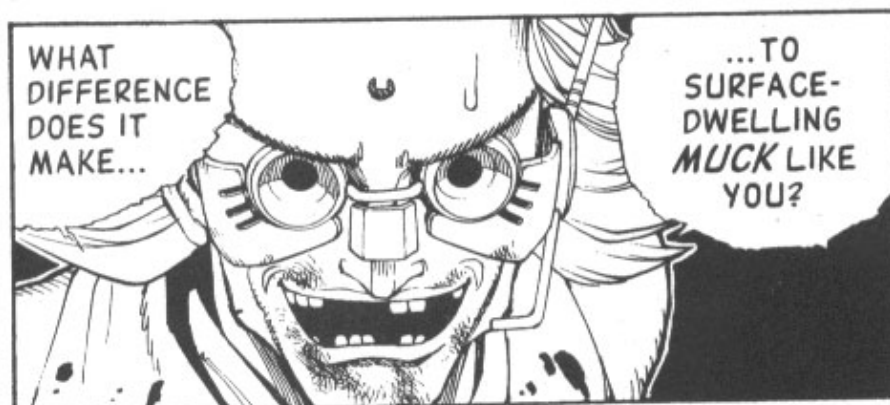
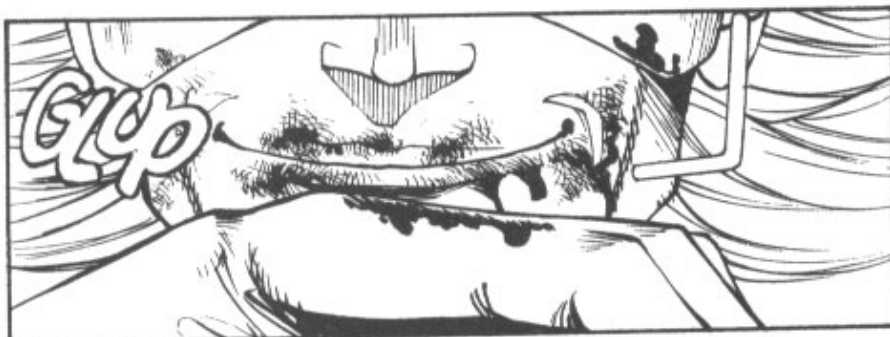


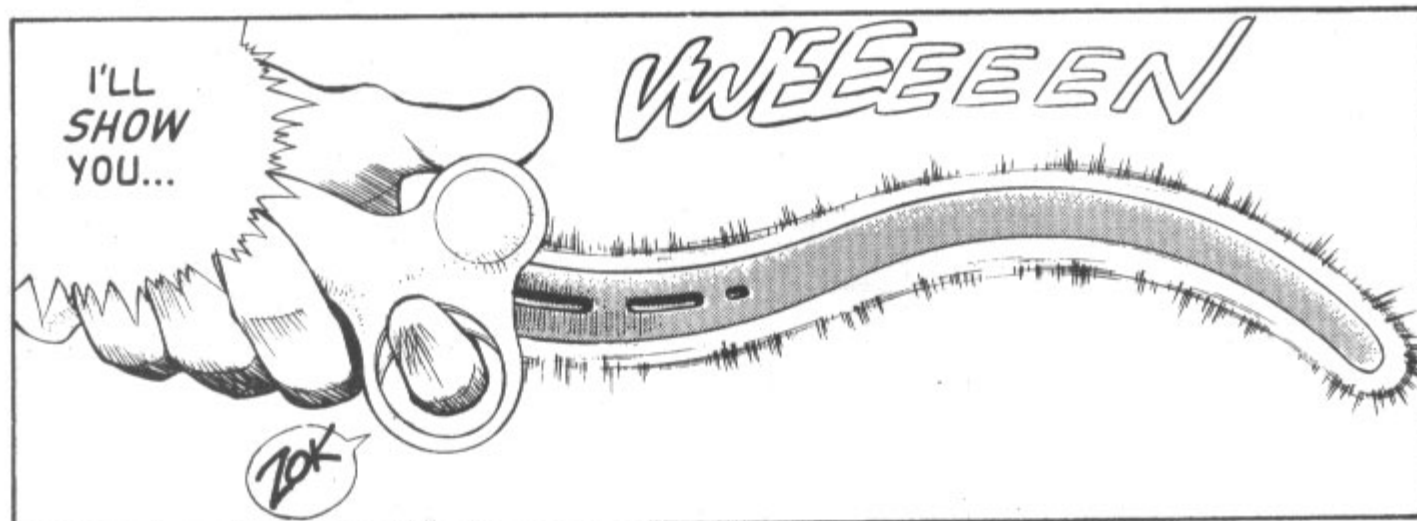
OH! I CAN'T
BEAR IT--
NEVER TO EAT
FLAN AGAIN!



O-OH,
YES!
IDO!

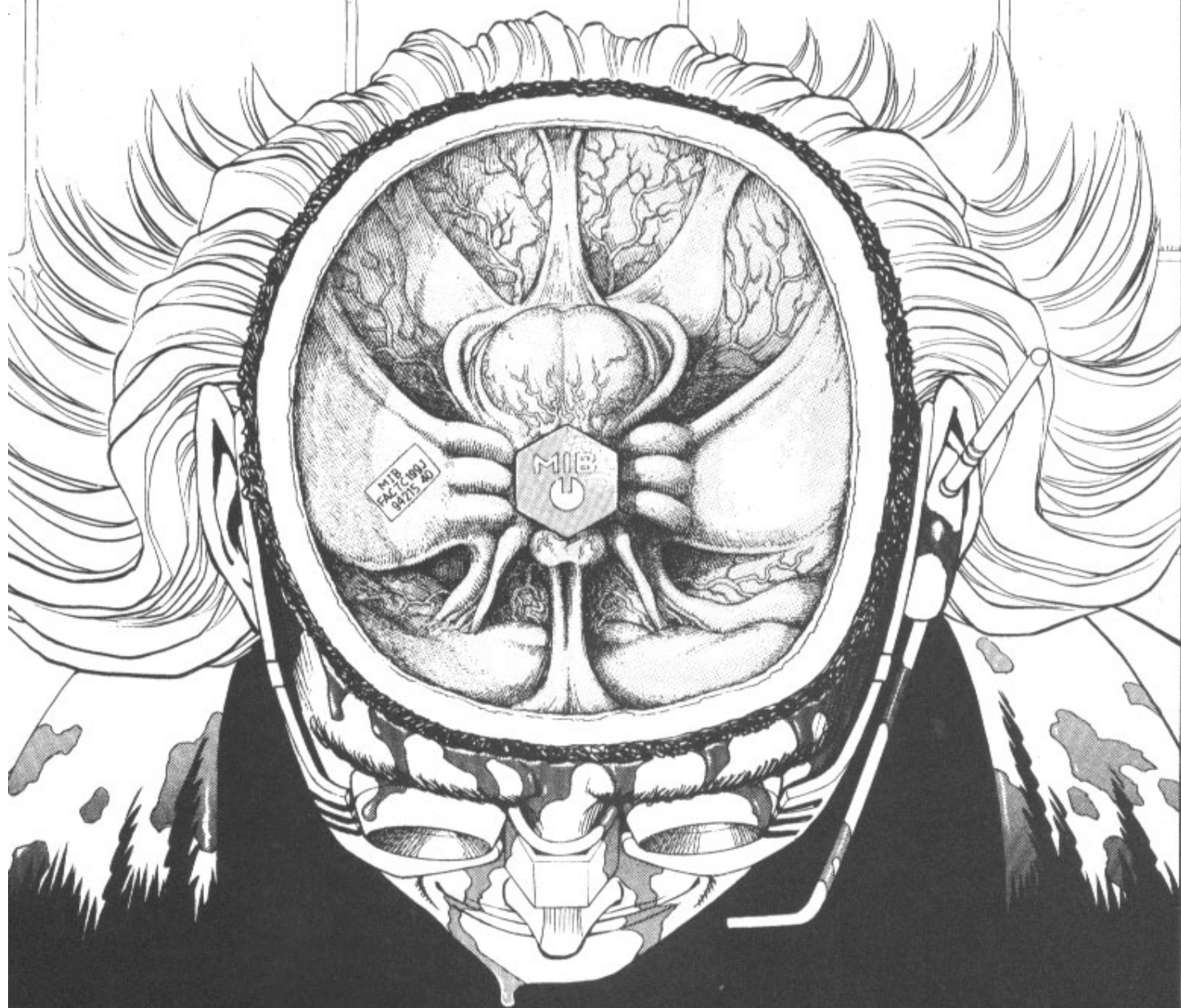








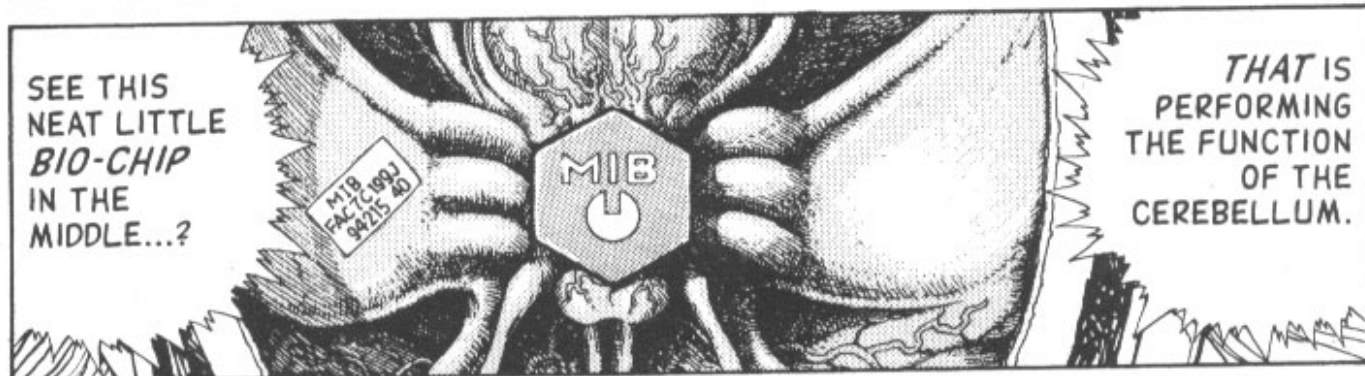
...AT THE
TRUE
FORM OF A
TIPHAREAN
!





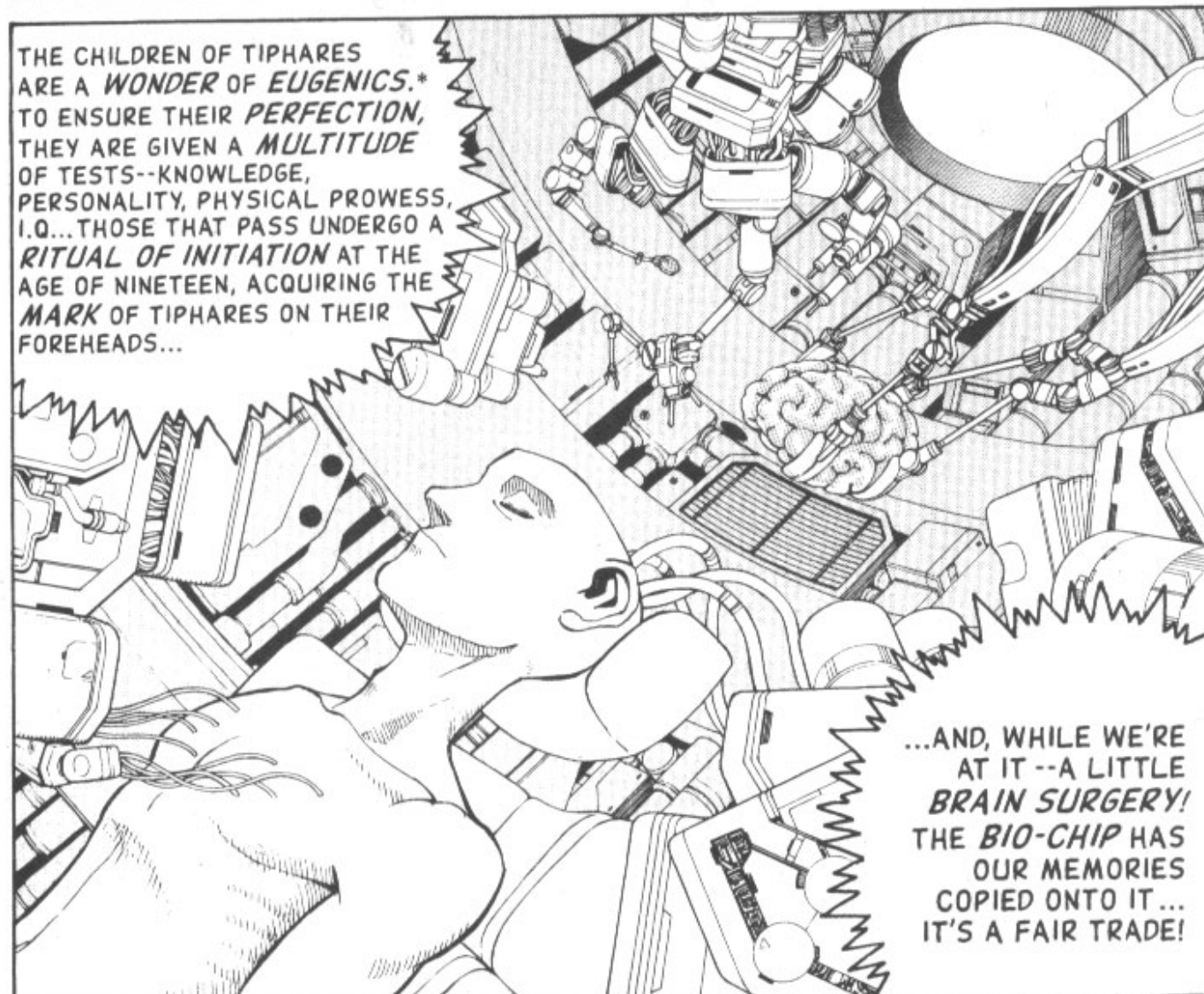
E-
EMPTY
!?

TH-THE
BRAIN!
WHERE'S
THE
BRAIN!?



SEE THIS
NEAT LITTLE
BIO-CHIP
IN THE
MIDDLE...?

THAT IS
PERFORMING
THE FUNCTION
OF THE
CEREBELLUM.



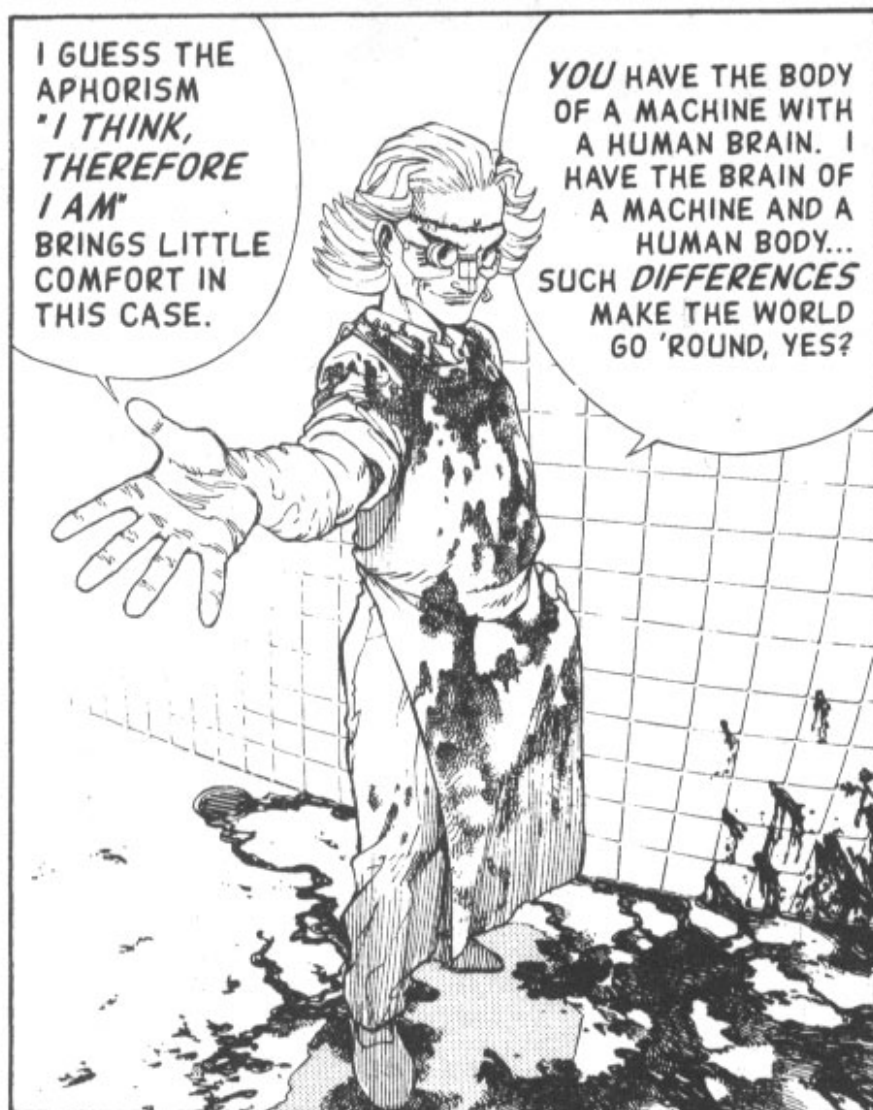
THE CHILDREN OF TIPHARES
ARE A *WONDER OF EUGENICS*.
TO ENSURE THEIR *PERFECTION*,
THEY ARE GIVEN A *MULTITUDE*
OF TESTS--KNOWLEDGE,
PERSONALITY, PHYSICAL PROWESS,
I.Q...THOSE THAT PASS UNDERGO A
RITUAL OF INITIATION AT THE
AGE OF NINETEEN, ACQUIRING THE
MARK OF TIPHARES ON THEIR
FOREHEADS...

...AND, WHILE WE'RE
AT IT --A LITTLE
BRAIN SURGERY!
THE *BIO-CHIP* HAS
OUR MEMORIES
COPIED ONTO IT...
IT'S A FAIR TRADE!

*EUGENICS--A SCIENCE CONCERNED WITH IMPROVING THE GENETIC
TRAITS OF THE HUMAN RACE THROUGH SELECTIVE BREEDING.



OF COURSE,
THE MEDICAL
INSPECTION
BUREAU KEEPS
THIS ALL
COMPLETELY
SECRET.



THE BIO-CHIP
BRAIN HELPS
CITIZENS CON-
FORM TO A
STANDARD, BY
ELIMINATING
UNDUE
STRESS--

--SUCH AS THE AWARENESS
THAT THEY HAVE *NO*
CONTROL OVER THEIR
LIVES. STILL, DEFECTS
CROP UP--AND PEOPLE
WITHOUT A
"LIMITER," LIKE
MYSELF AND DOCTOR
IDO, ARE CREATED.



THEN...
WHAT IS
TIPHARES
!?

UNFORTUNATELY,
EVEN I CAN'T
ANSWER *THAT*
QUESTION.

MAYBE
TIPHARES IS
NOTHING BUT
A GIANT
LABORATORY...

WHO
MADE IT --
FOR WHAT
PURPOSE!?

...AND THE
TIPHAREANS
NOTHING BUT
GUINEA
PIGS.

WHEN MY FATHER
LEARNED THE TRUTH,
HE *FLED* TIPHARES,
IMMERSING HIMSELF
IN HIS RESEARCH
ON KARMA...



IT'S
A
LIE!

TH-THE
INSIDE OF MY
HEAD IS A...A
MACHINE!?

WHAT'S
WRONG,
CHIEF?

TMP
TMP
TMP

WHAT A
LUDICROUS
FAIRY TALE!

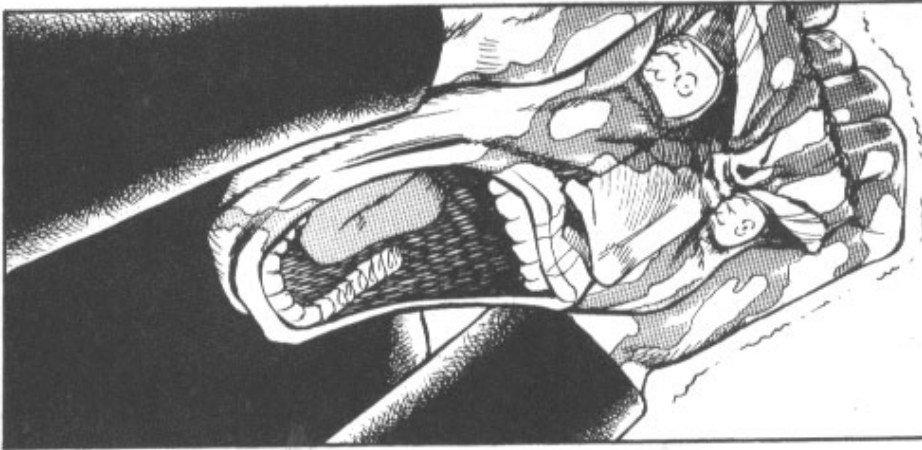
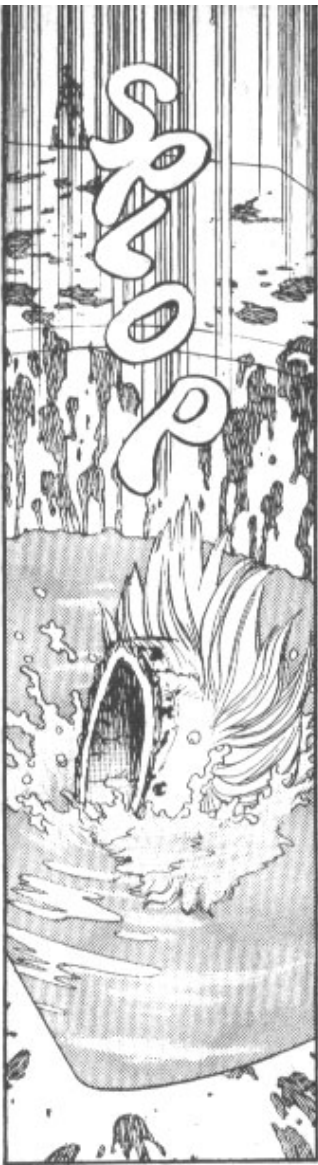
KRASH
CRUSH

A HEALTHY
BODY AND
A HEALTHY
PSYCHE!
THAT'S THE
FOUNDATION
OF THE
CITIZEN OF
TIPHARES!

KYEEEN

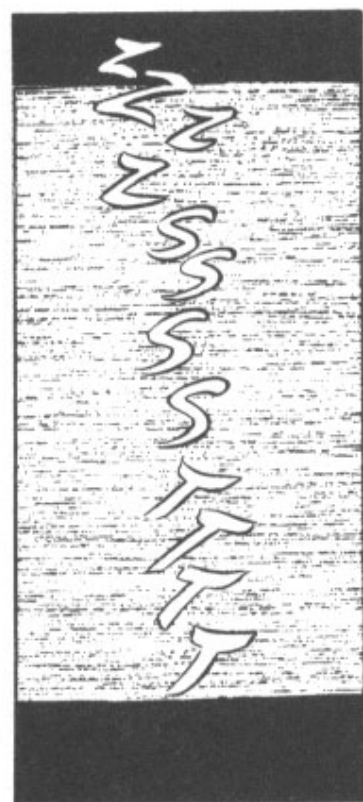
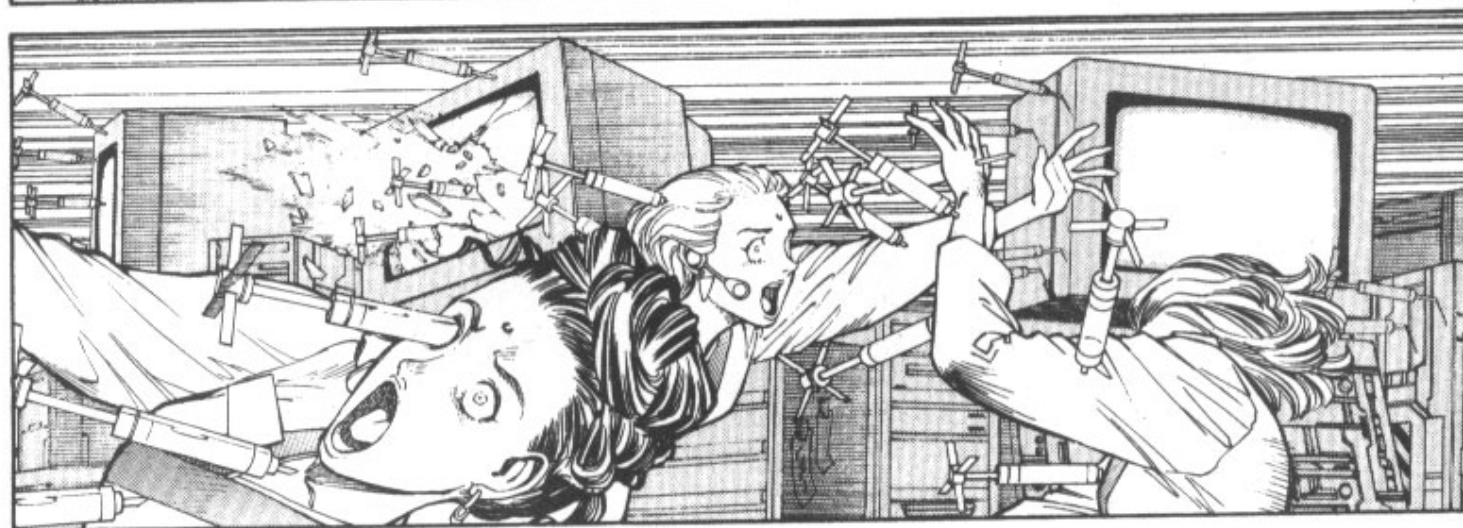
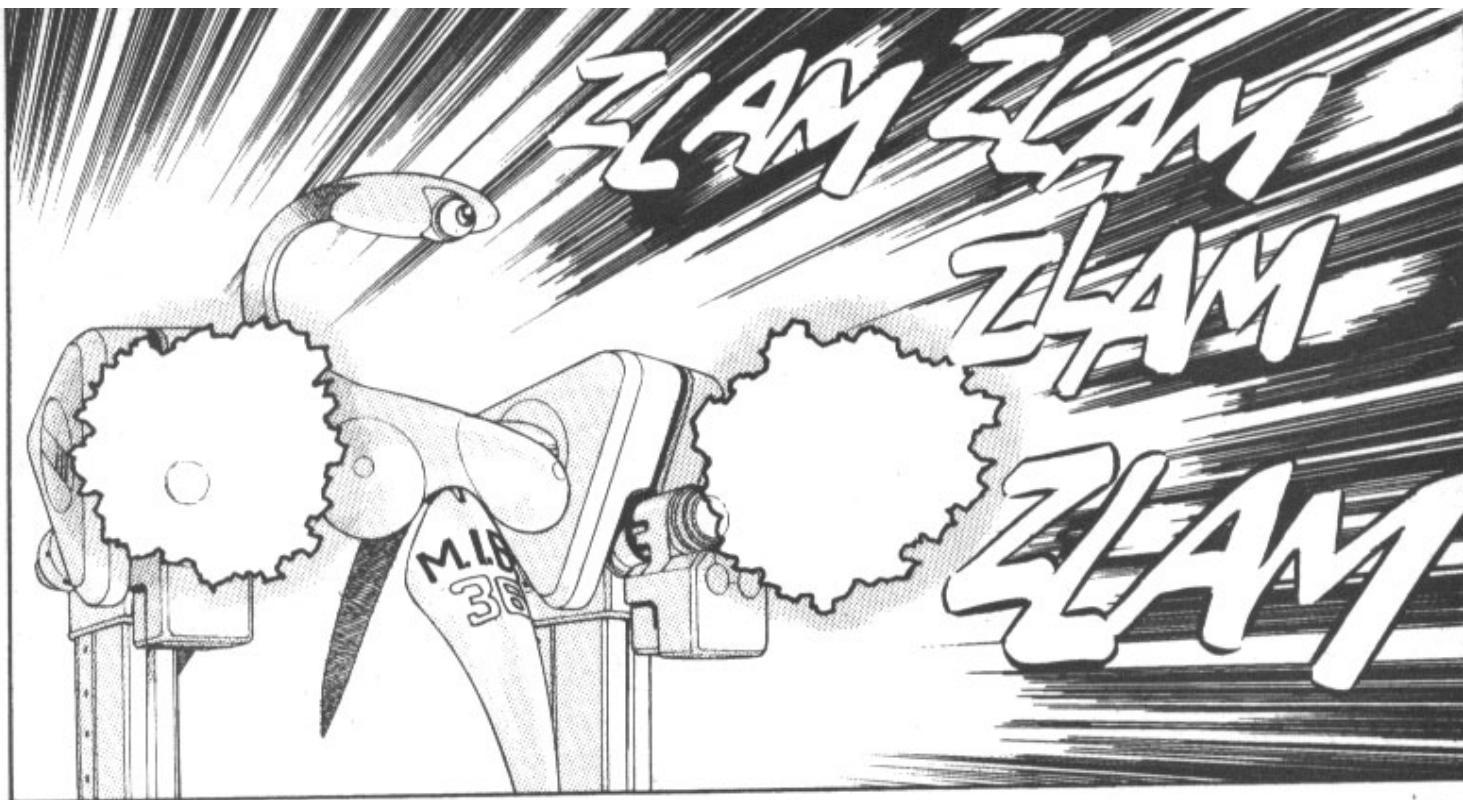
SKREE SKREE
SKREE

WE'RE NOTHING
LIKE THOSE
FREAKS ON THE
SURFACE--
REPLACING THEIR
FRAIL BODIES
AND WEAK
MINDS WITH
MACHINES!



M-
MY...
...MY...
BRAIN...





ALITA,
BEHIND
YOU!



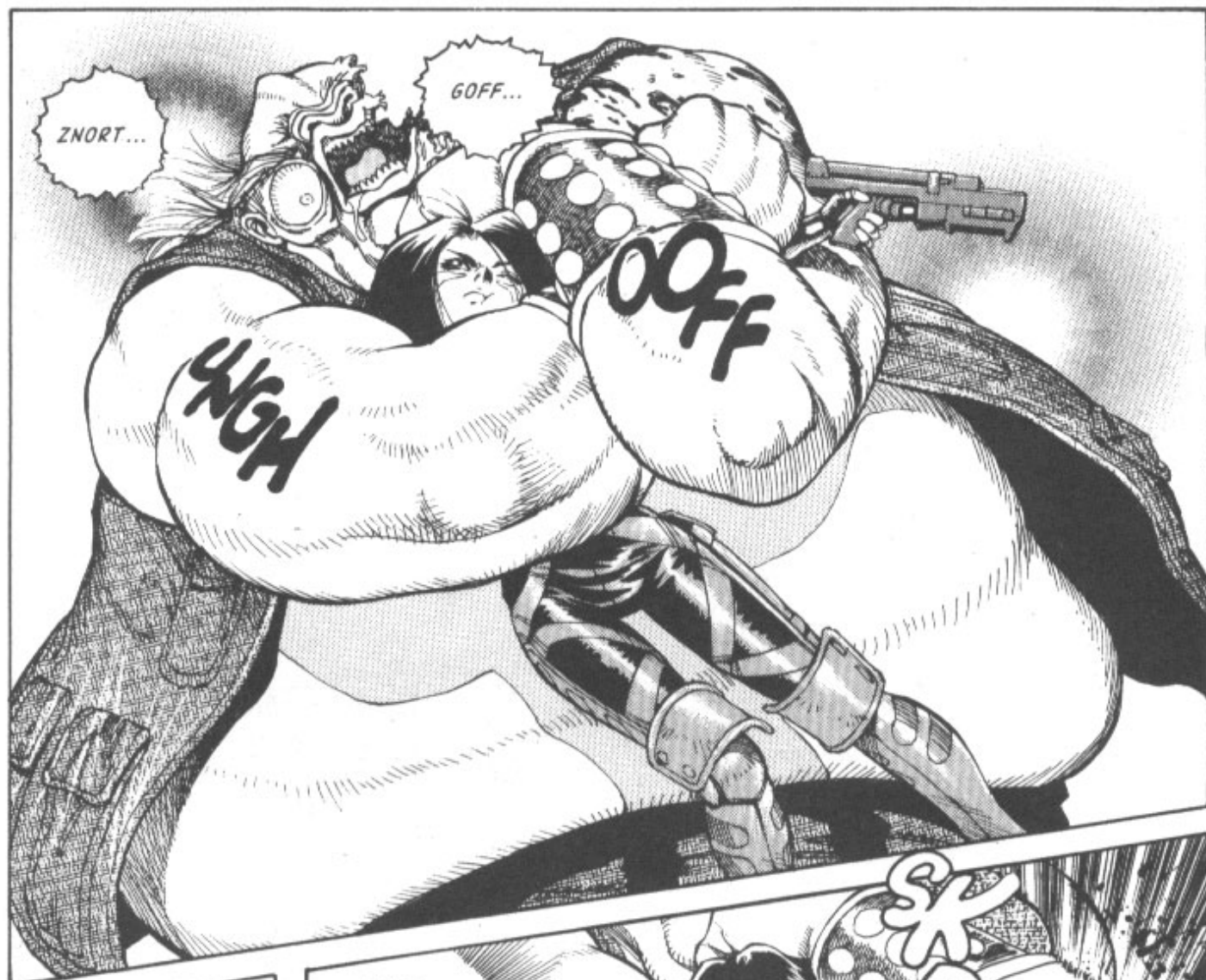
KYAHHAHA!
WELL DONE,
BAZARLD!





BULLETS
CAN'T
PENETRATE
THIS HIGH-
PRESSURE
WATER
BARRIER!

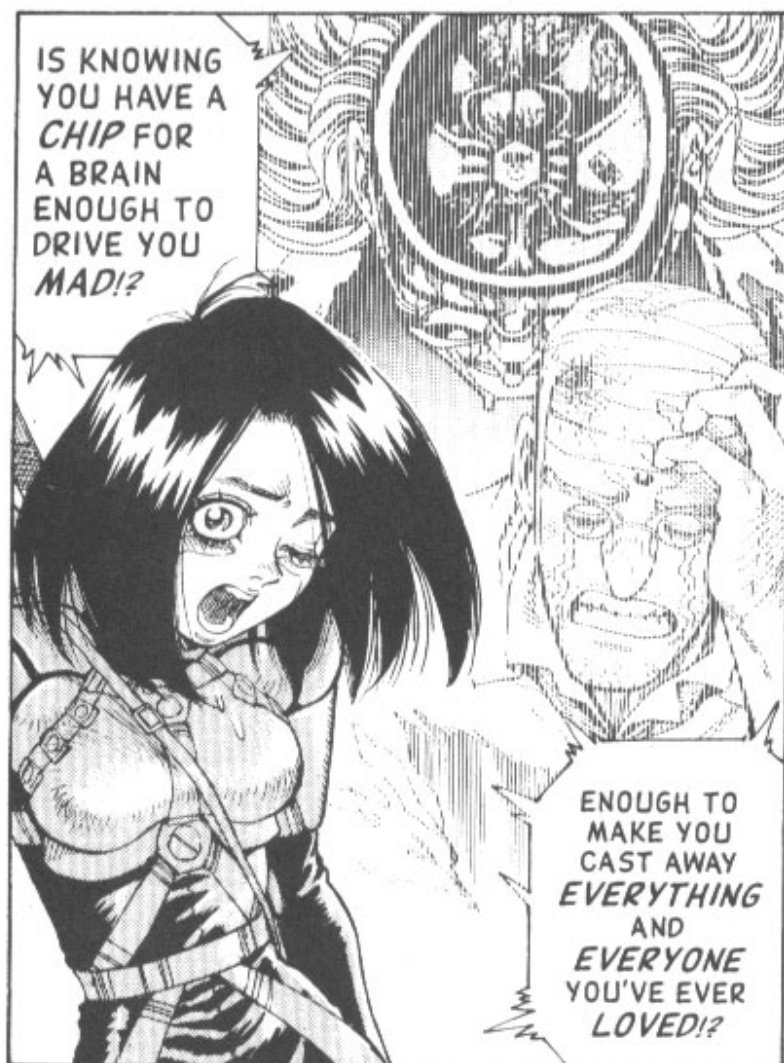




THE
ONLY
WAY TO
BEAT
THEM...







NO MATTER HOW MUCH
YOU LOVED IDO..YOU
COULD NEVER KNOW
EVERYTHING THAT WAS
IN HIS HEART, OR TRULY
UNDERSTAND HIS
SUFFERING.

YOU
MUSTN'T
BLAME
HIM...



UH-
HUH...

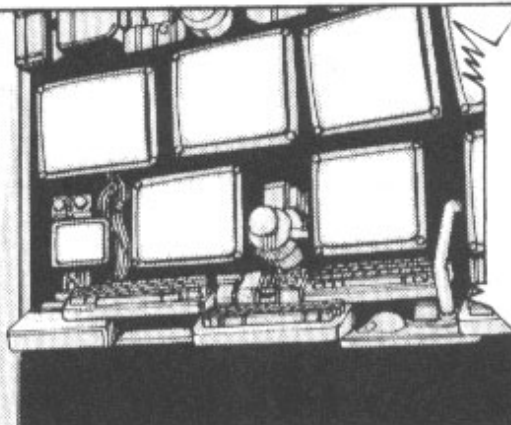


DO YOU
ALWAYS
KNOW WHAT
TO SAY,
KAOS?



WHEN IT
COMES TO
HUMAN
WEAKNESS...
I'M AN
EXPERT!

BUT THE
TIME FOR
WORDS
IS OVER!



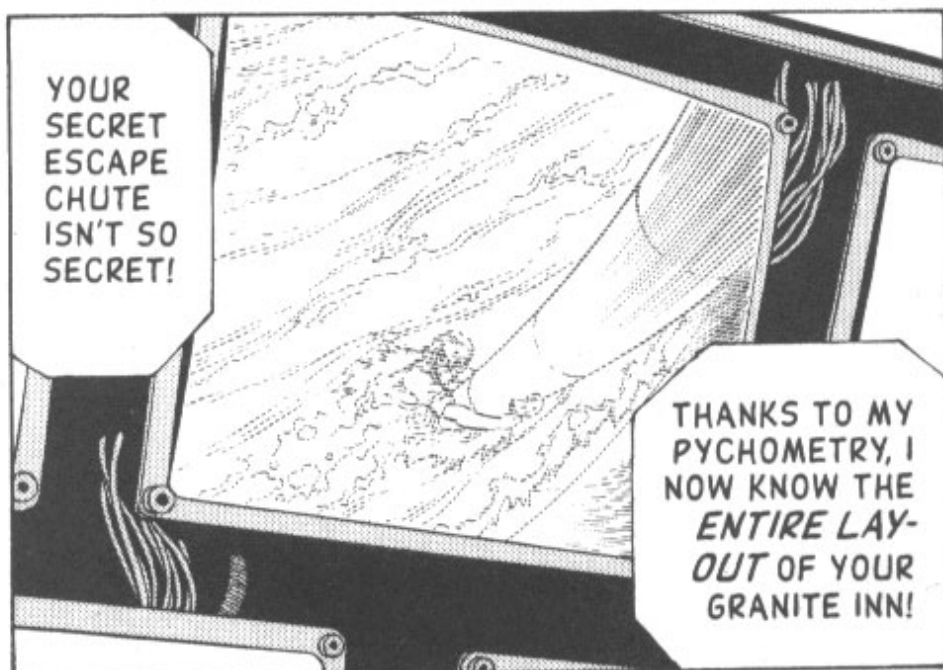
WE
CAN'T
LET MY
FATHER
ESCAPE
!





THERE'S
NO ESCAPE
FOR YOU,
FATHER!

K-
KAOS
!?



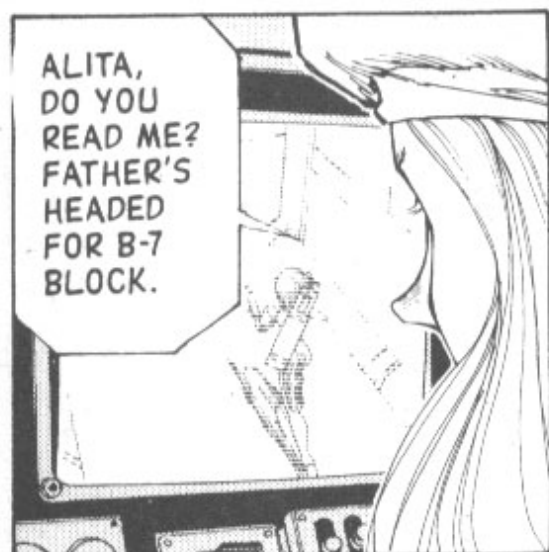
YOUR
SECRET
ESCAPE
CHUTE
ISN'T SO
SECRET!

THANKS TO MY
PYCHOMETRY, I
NOW KNOW THE
*ENTIRE LAY-
OUT* OF YOUR
GRANITE INN!



I'VE FLOODED
ALL EIGHT
OF YOUR
ESCAPE
ROUTES! THE
ONLY WAY
OUT IS
THROUGH THE
MAIN GATE...

DESPITE
ALL YOUR
CONTINGENCY
PLANS, YOU'RE
JUST A RAT
IN A *CAGE*!

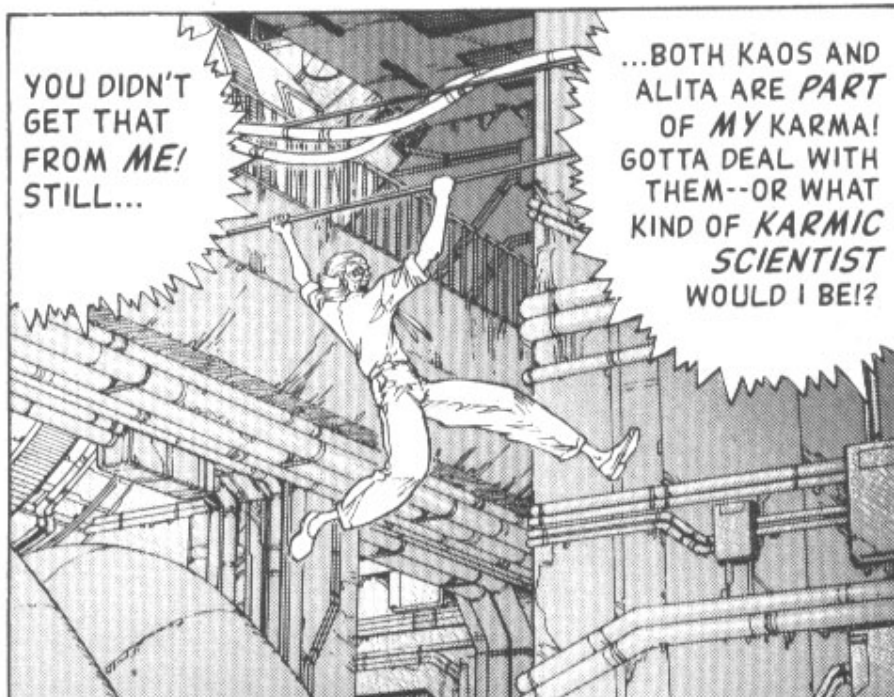
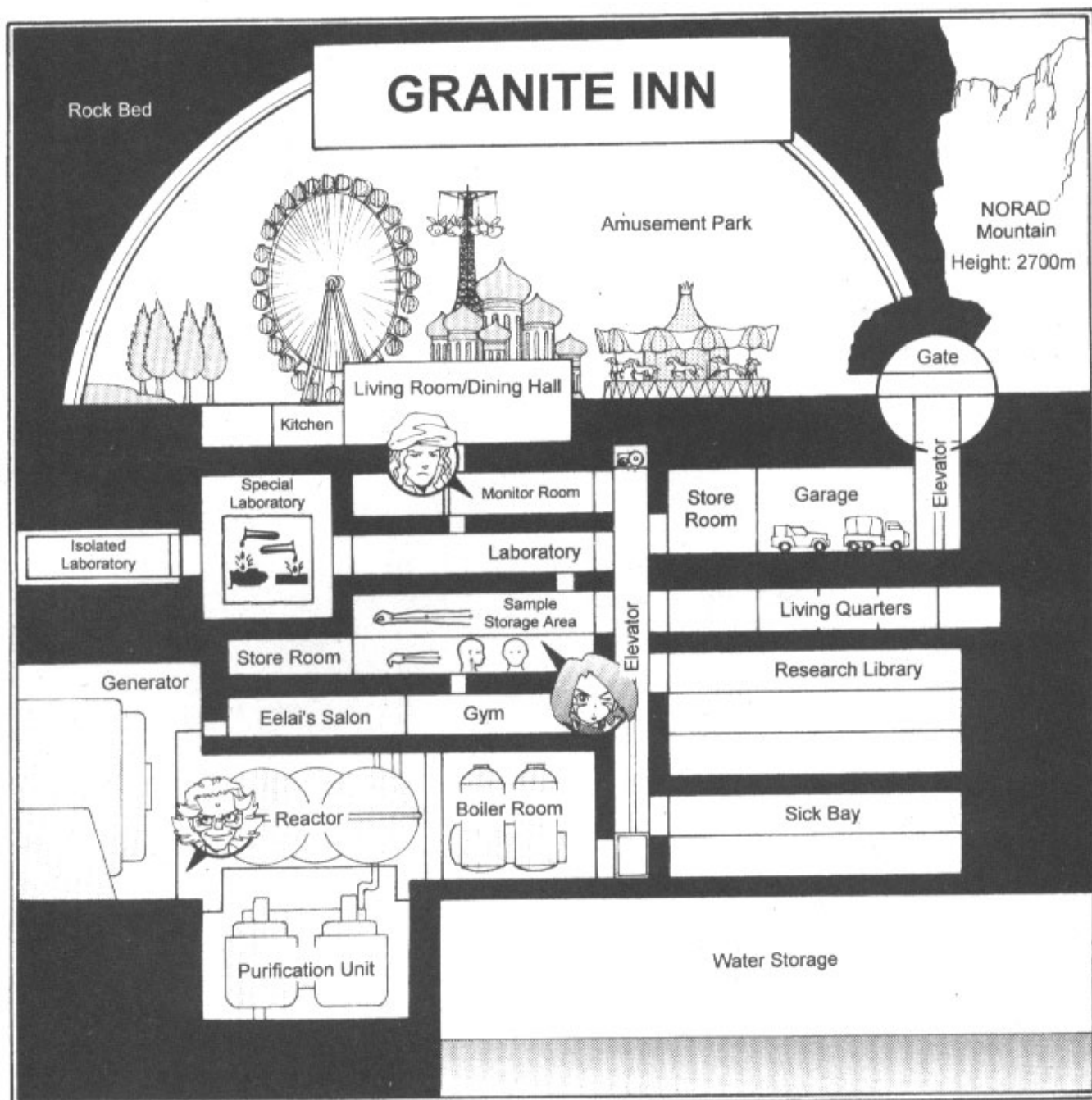


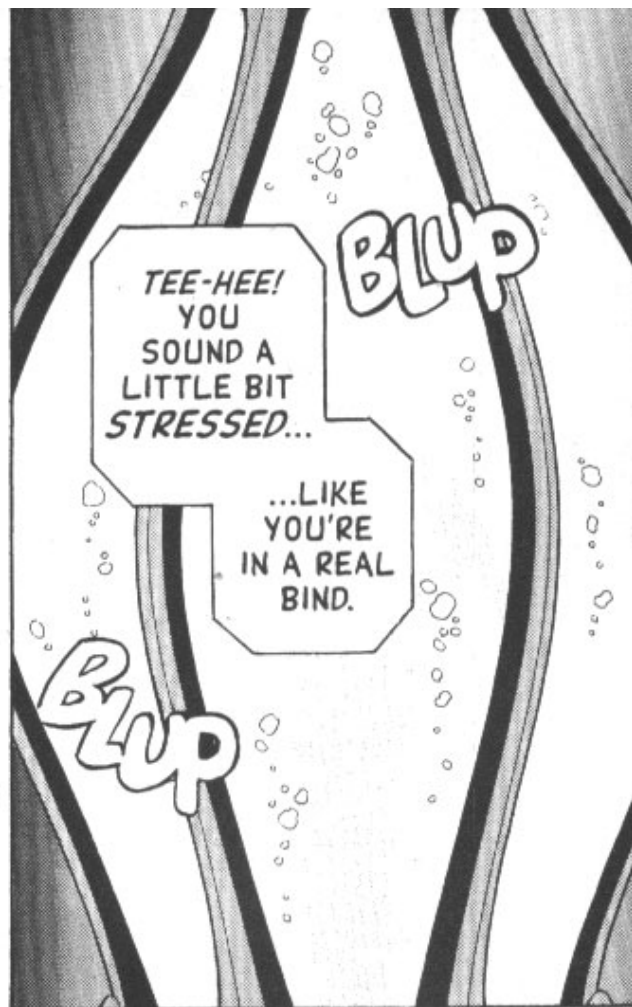
ALITA,
DO YOU
READ ME?
FATHER'S
HEADED
FOR B-7
BLOCK.



TURN
LEFT!

THIS
WAY
!?





MMMM...!

*I FEEL...
REBORN!*





WHAT'S
THE
MATTER,
ALITA?

I--I
CAN'T DO
THIS...

IF
TIPHAREANS
ARE GUINEA
PIGS, EVEN
NOVA
HIMSELF IS
A VICTIM.

THAT'S
JUST TOO
SAD.

.....

STEP INTO
THE ROOM
NEXT TO
YOU...

?

CHIK





TIP OF
THE
ICEBERG.

THESE PEOPLE WERE
ONCE TRADESMEN AND
FARMERS--INNOCENT,
HEALTHY PEOPLE.
THEIR CHILDREN, THEIR
FAMILIES...ALL TAKEN
PRISONER BY THE
BARJACK.

IN THE TWO DECADES
SINCE NOVA FLED
TIPHARES, *TEN TIMES*
THIS MANY SURFACE-
DWELLERS HAVE
SUFFERED SIMILAR FATES
AT HIS HANDS--
CUT UP AND MUTILATED
TO SATISFY HIS
NEED FOR SCIENTIFIC
GRATIFICATION.

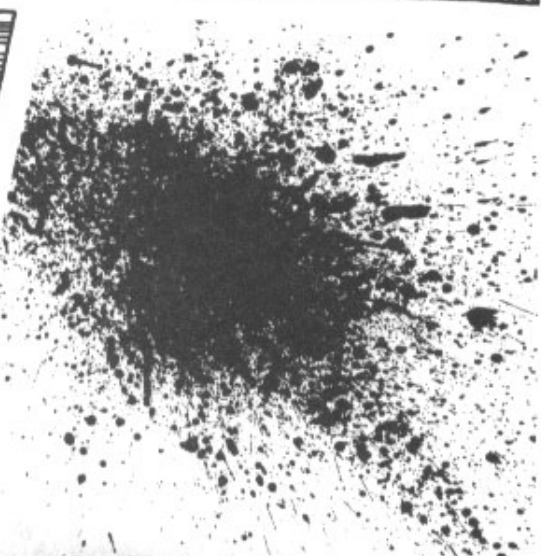
...!

OH
!

GRUP

P-PLEASE...
KILL ME...
PLEASE...

K-
KILL
ME...





KAOS...
YOU'RE
RIGHT...



...WE'RE
THE ONLY
TWO WHO
CAN STOP
NOVA!



AND THAT
MAN
MUST BE
STOPPED!

TIPHARES
AND MY
OWN
FEELINGS
BE
DAMNED!



TEE, HEE...
EMOTIONAL
AS EVER...



LITTLE
ALITA...

...EVER
WONDER
WHEN
YOU'RE
GOING TO
DIE?



I
NEVER
HAVE.

I'VE
NO
NEED
TO.

ETERNAL BEAUTY...
AN UNDYING BODY...
THANKS TO THE
PROFESSOR'S
NANOTECHNOLOGY,
I'VE BECOME AN
IMMORTAL...



SO ANY
ENEMY OF
MY
DARLING
PROFESSOR
NOVA...



...IS AN
ENEMY
OF
MINE!

LOOOP



!?



SHAAAAA BLAM
BLAM
BLAM



HA,
HA,
HA!

SPASH
TASH

SHE'S
USING A
WATER
PRESSURE
CONVERTER
!

IT SHOOTS A
HIGH-PRESSURE
STREAM OF WATER
AT *SUPERSONIC*
SPEEDS!
THAT BLAST CAN
CUT THROUGH
STEEL AS IF IT
WERE *JELLY*!



IT'S *SO*
UNSATISFYING
TO CARVE UP A
CYBORG!
NOT ENOUGH
PAIN...



ALITA WON'T BE
ABLE TO DODGE
HER ATTACK
FOR LONG!



RUN,
ALITA!
RUN!

WITHOUT THE
KNOWLEDGE OF
REAL FLESH--ITS
JOYS AND PAINS--
YOU HAVE NO
REASON TO
LIVE!



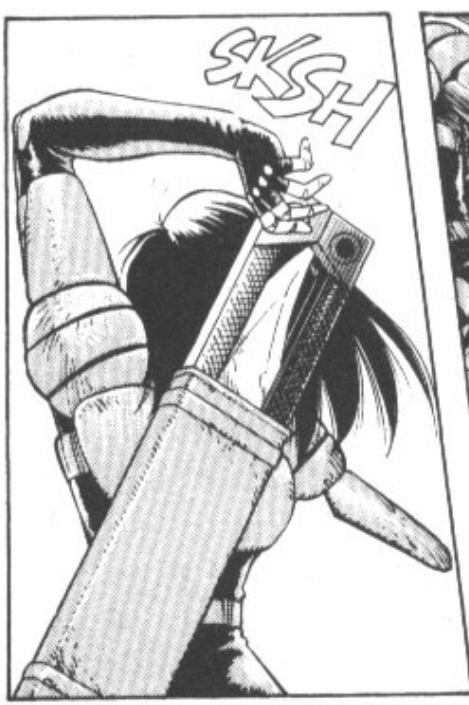


COMPARED TO THE
PLEASURES OF THE
FLESH, WORDS LIKE
LOVE AND DREAMS,
HONOR AND IDEALS...
THEY'RE NOTHING BUT
THE MOLD THAT GROWS
ON CHEESE!

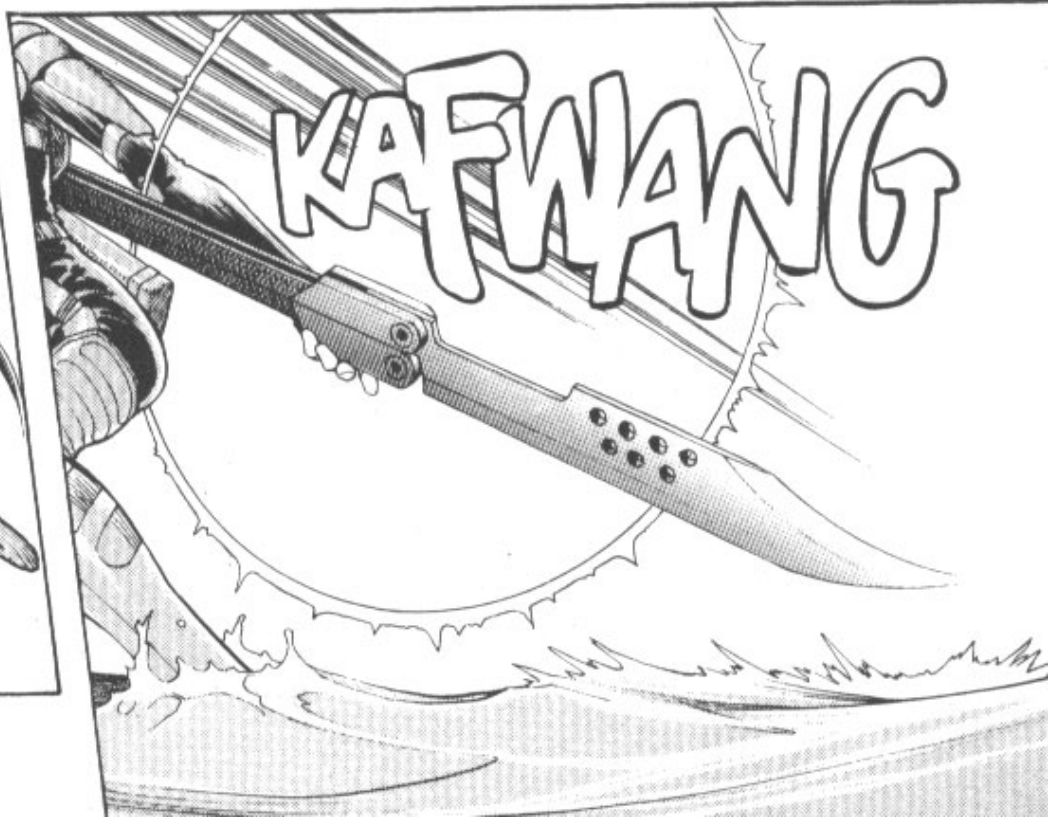


I AM
FLESH!

FLESH
IS
EVERY-
THING!



SKSH



KAFWANG



LOOKS LIKE
EVEN NOVA'S NANO-
TECHNOLOGY
COULDN'T REPAIR
THE *UGLINESS*
IN *YOUR* SOUL!

HEAR
THAT,
SAUSAGE
WOMAN
?!



HOW *DARE* A
MERE *BRAIN*
IN A *BOX* TALK
TO *ME* LIKE
THAT...!



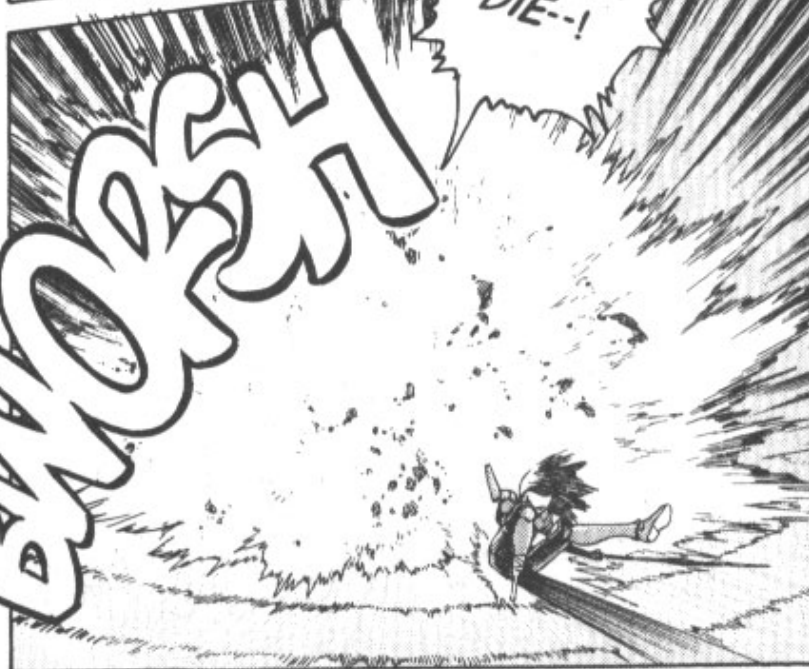
THE
DAMASCUS
BLADE IS
USELESS
AGAINST
HER!

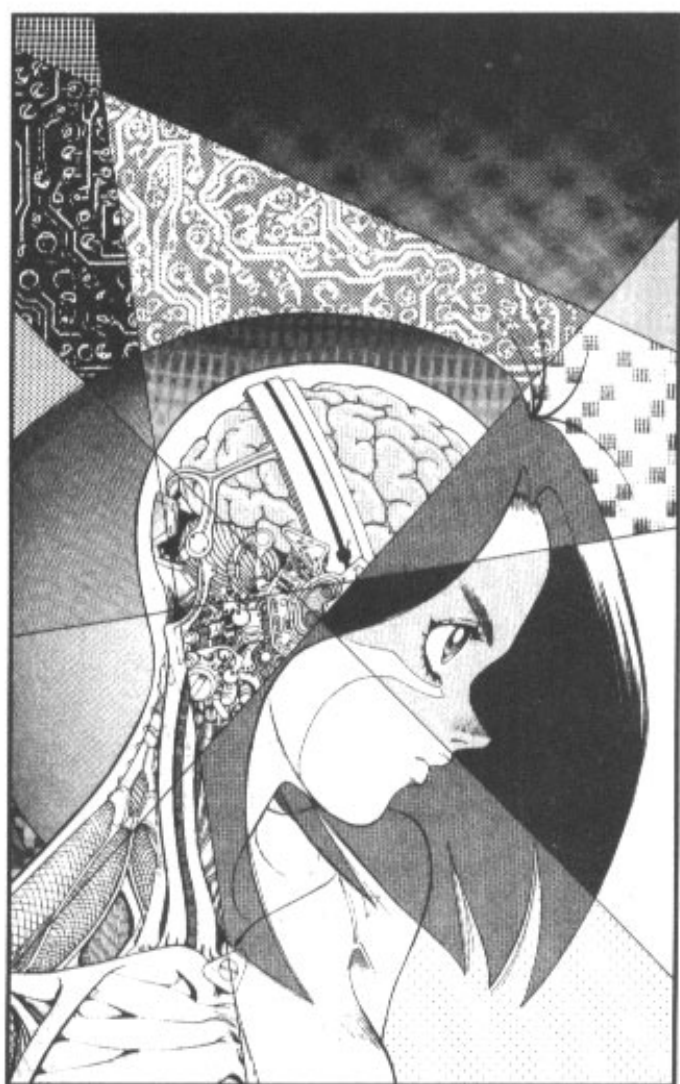


HIGH-PRESSURE
WATER IS USED
TO *SHARPEN*
THAT BLADE! YOU
CAN'T DEFEAT
HER WITH THAT!









OUROBOROS II

Challenge 2: Gun Dreams





BE
CAREFUL
!



I CAN FEEL
THE MOVE-
MENT OF
EVERY AIR
MOLECULE
AROUND ME
NOW...!

I CAN *SENSE*
THE SMALLEST
CURRENT OF
ELECTRICITY
WITHIN FIFTEEN
METERS...!
EVEN *SEE*
ITS COLOR!

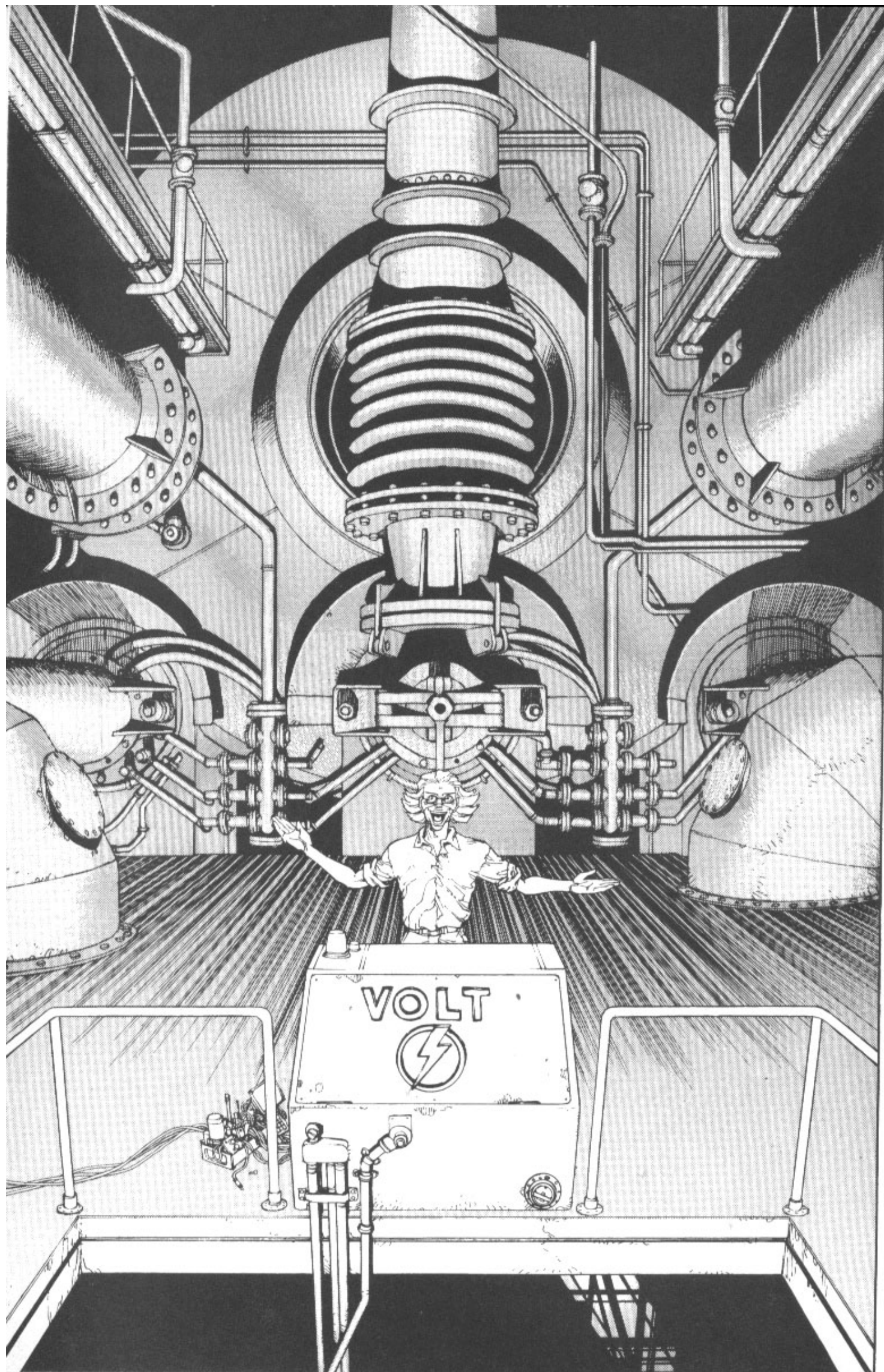
I'VE
NEVER
FELT CHI
SO
POWERFUL
WITHIN
ME!

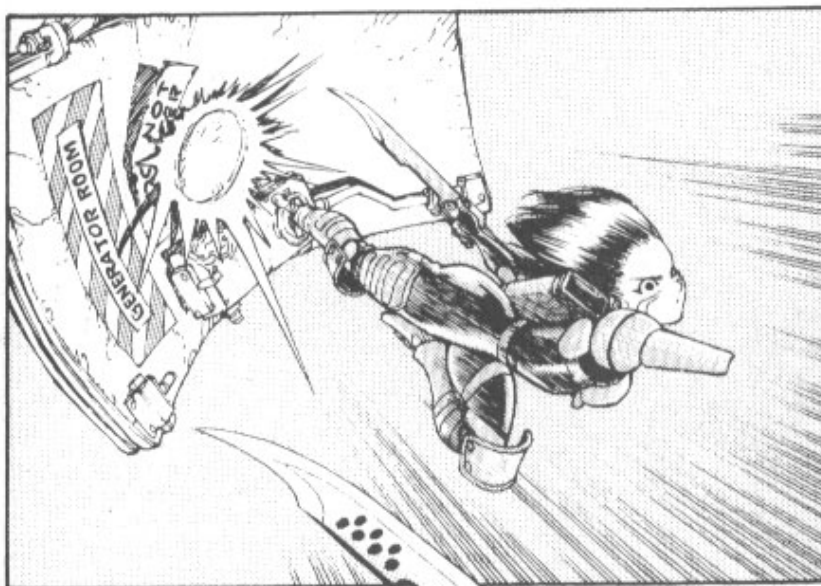
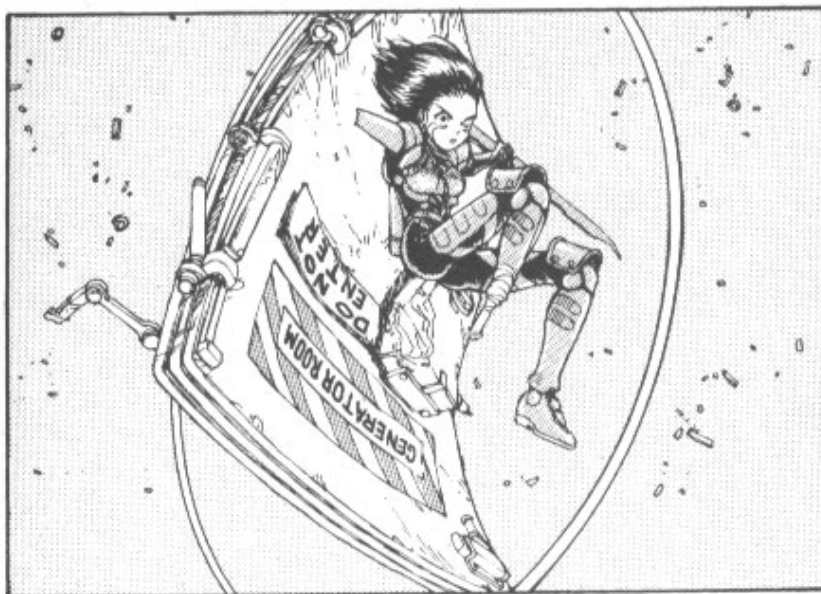
I
WILL
DEFEAT
HIM!

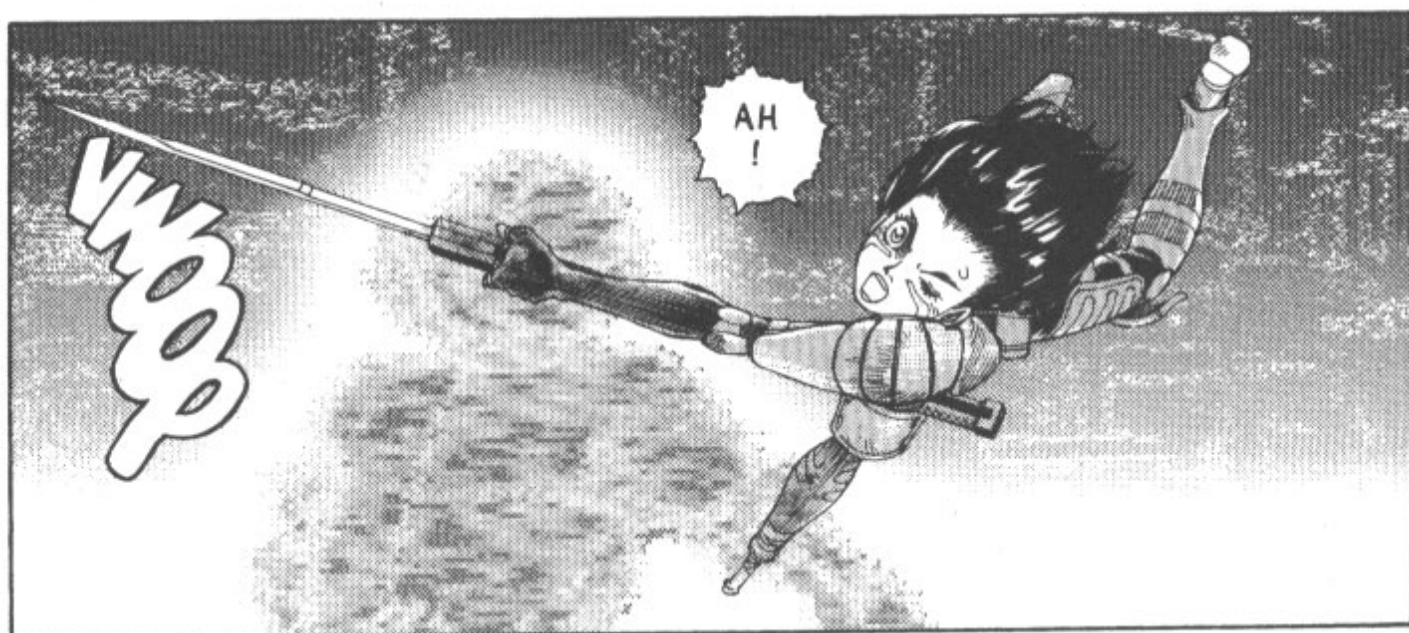
NO MATTER
WHAT KIND
OF TRAP
HE'S GOT
WAITING
FOR ME!

HE
WON'T
STOP
ME!

SLAM









IMPRESSIVE.
ALTHOUGH I'VE
TAKEN CONTROL OF
HER CONSCIOUSNESS,
SHE STILL LANDS
PERFECTLY.

I DON'T
DARE EVEN
APPROACH
HER, LEST
I GET
SLASHED.



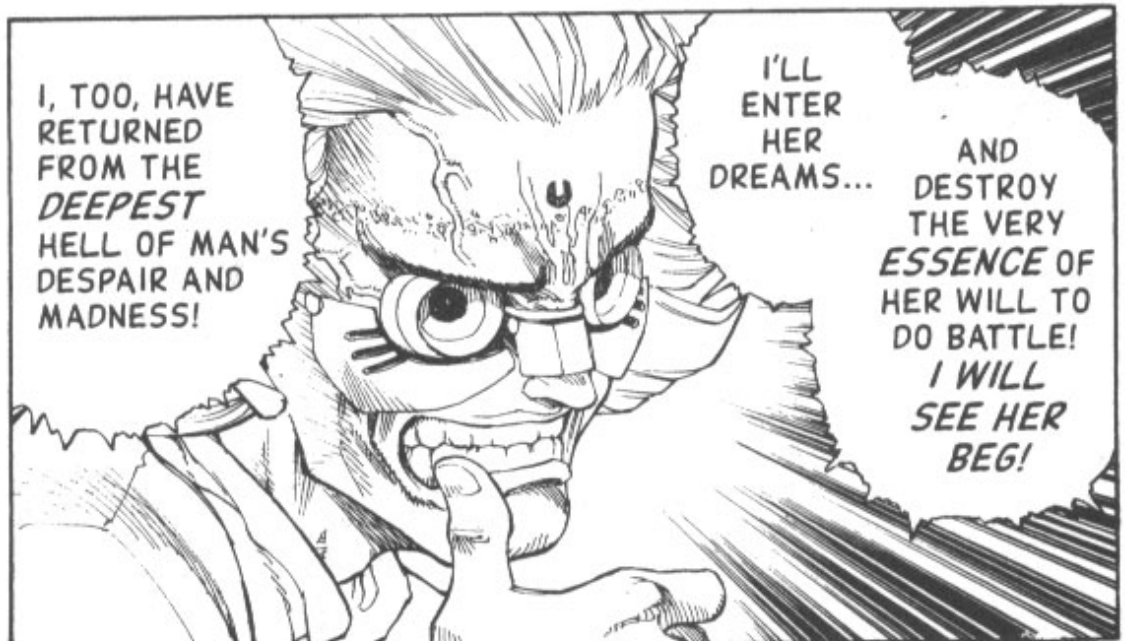
FATHER, THE
OUROBOROS
PROGRAM
WILL NO
LONGER WORK
AGAINST
ALITA!



PSHAW! THE
G.I.B. MAY
HAVE BEEN
DESTROYED,
BUT THAT
DOESN'T MEAN
THE TUNED'S
DIGITAL COM-
LINK IS
DOWN.

I CAN ACCESS
THE OUROBOROS
PROGRAM THAT
I HACKED INTO
ALITA'S MIND AT
ANY TIME!

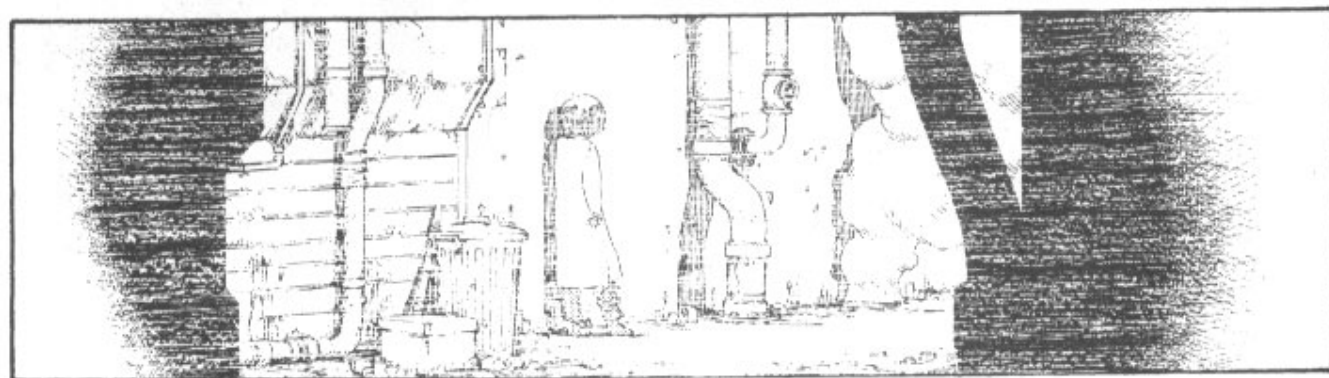
BUT I'M
NO LONGER
CONTENT TO
JUST TOY
WITH HER
**SUB-
CONSCIOUS...**

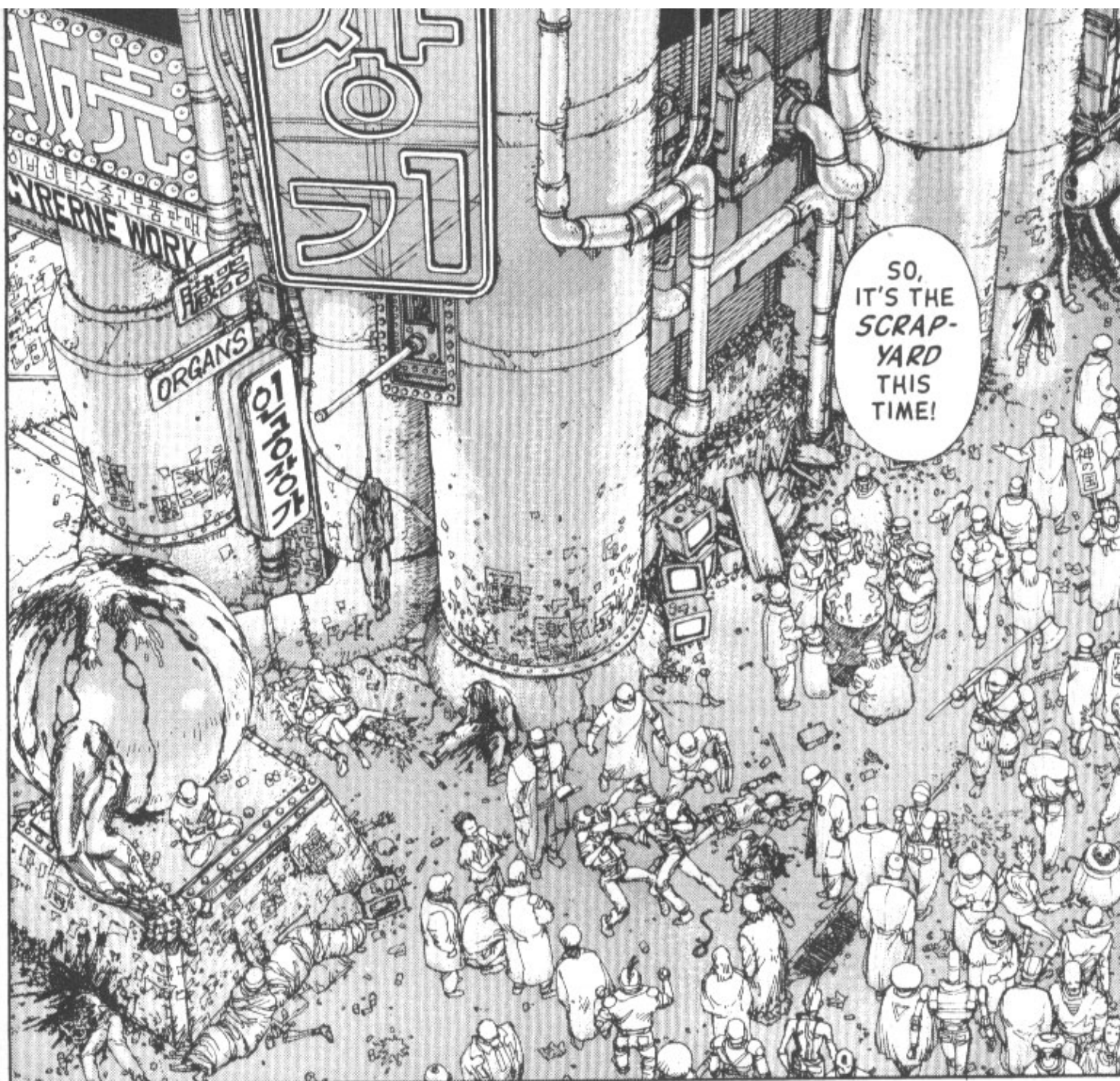


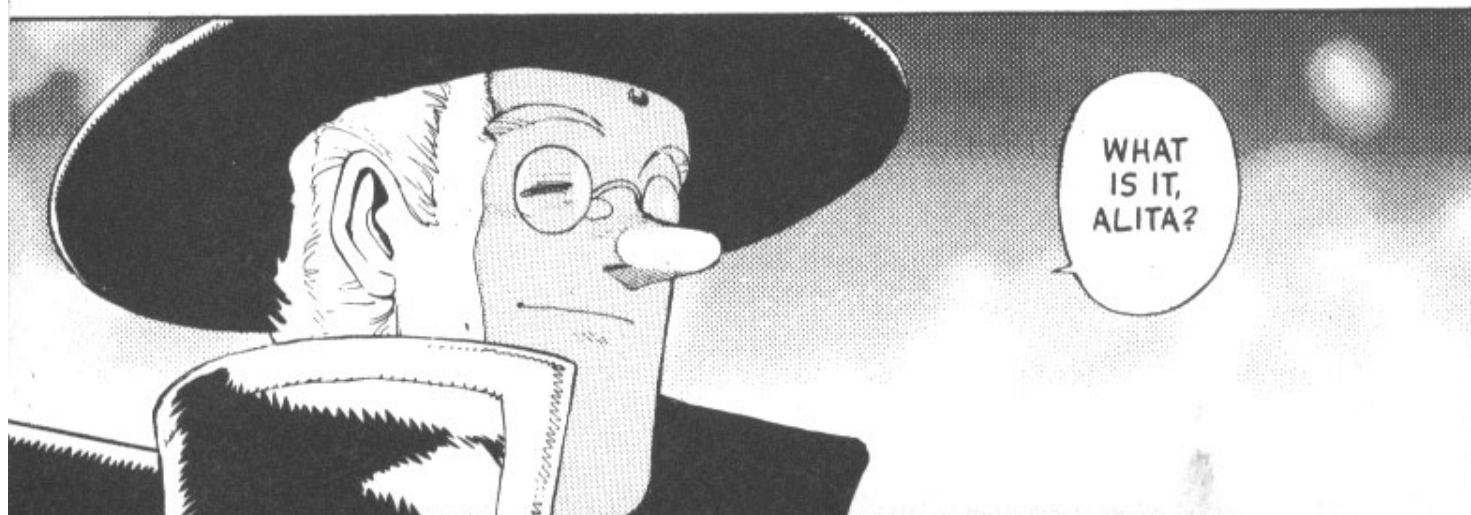
I, TOO, HAVE
RETURNED
FROM THE
DEEPEST
HELL OF MAN'S
DESPAIR AND
MADNESS!

I'LL
ENTER
HER
DREAMS...

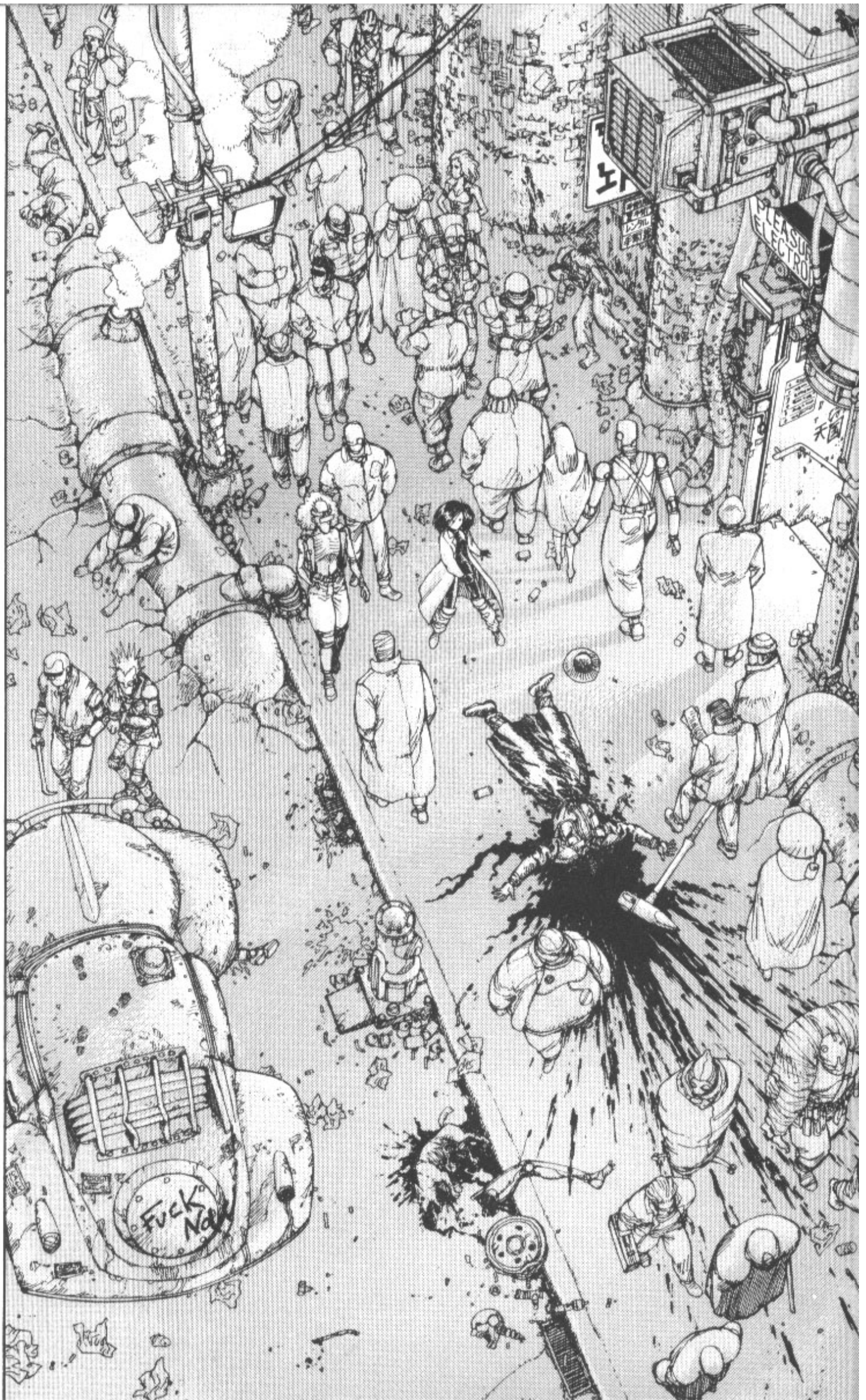
AND
DESTROY
THE VERY
ESSENCE OF
HER WILL TO
DO BATTLE!
I WILL
SEE HER
BEG!

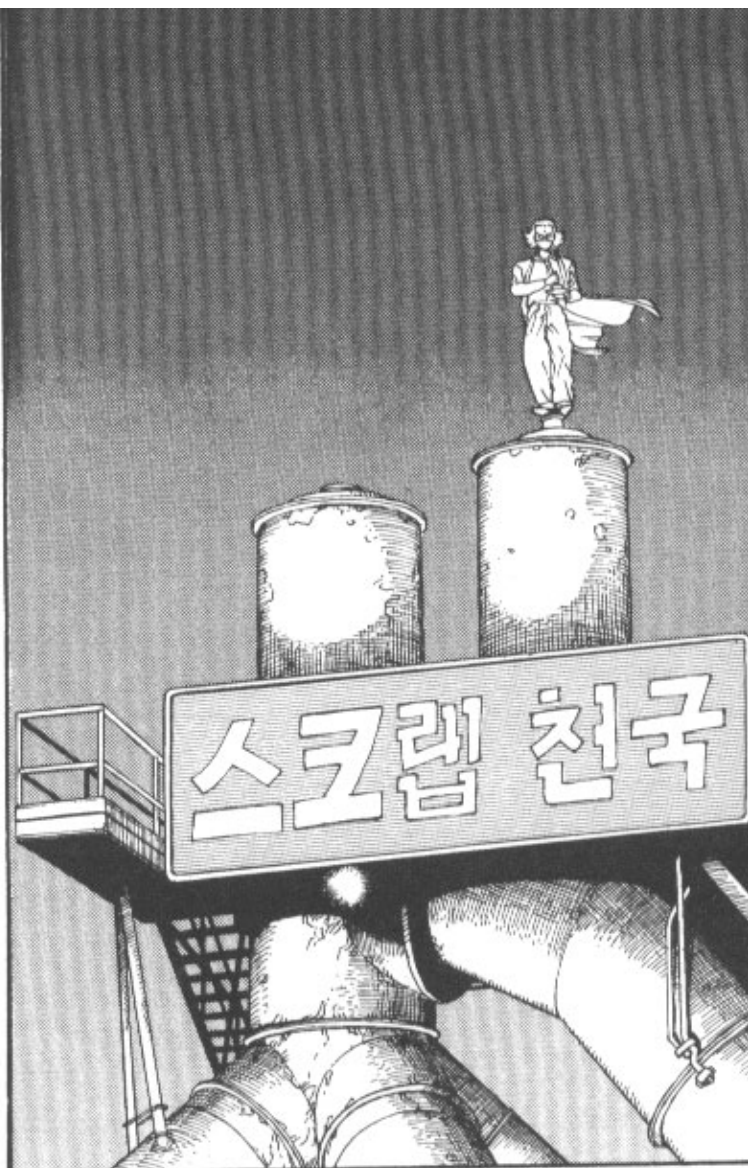
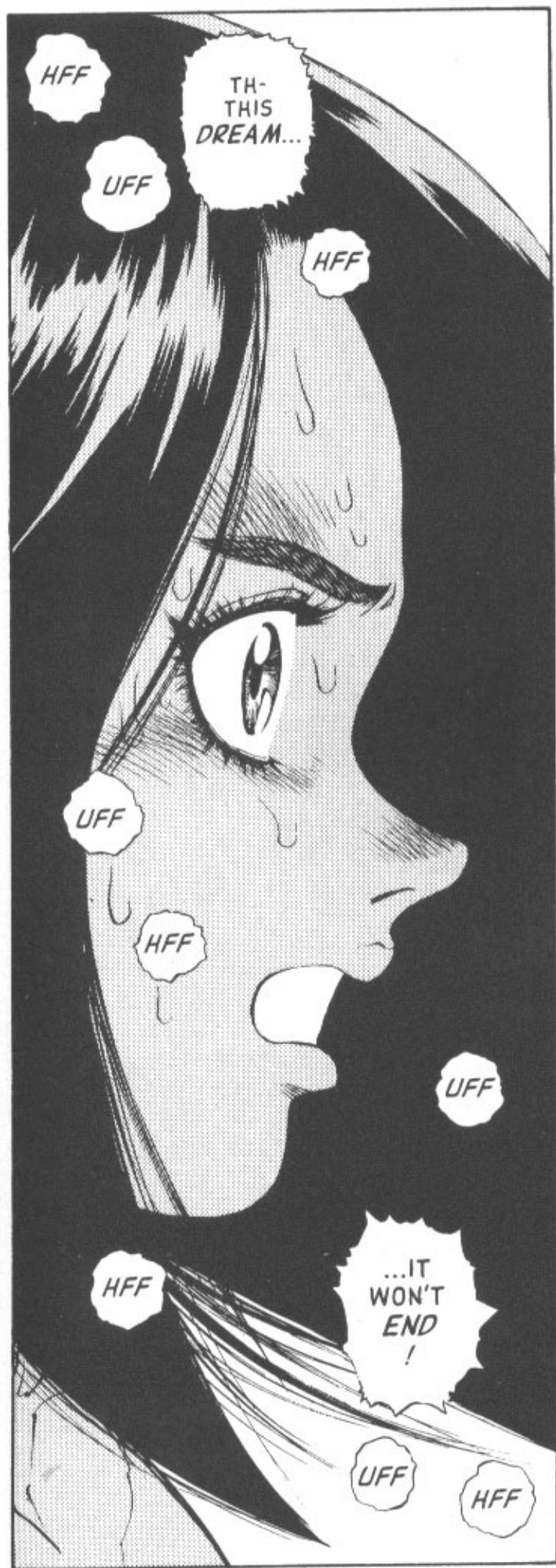


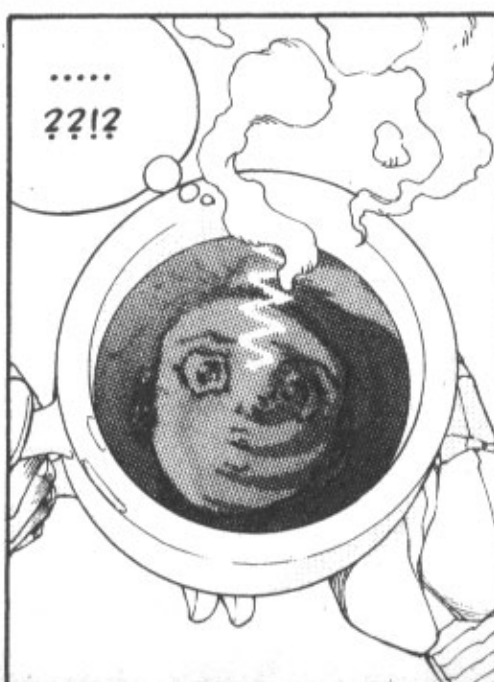
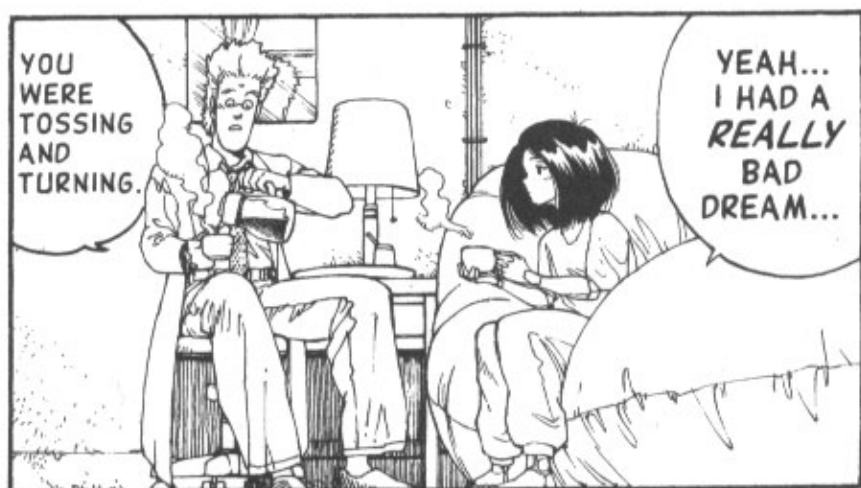
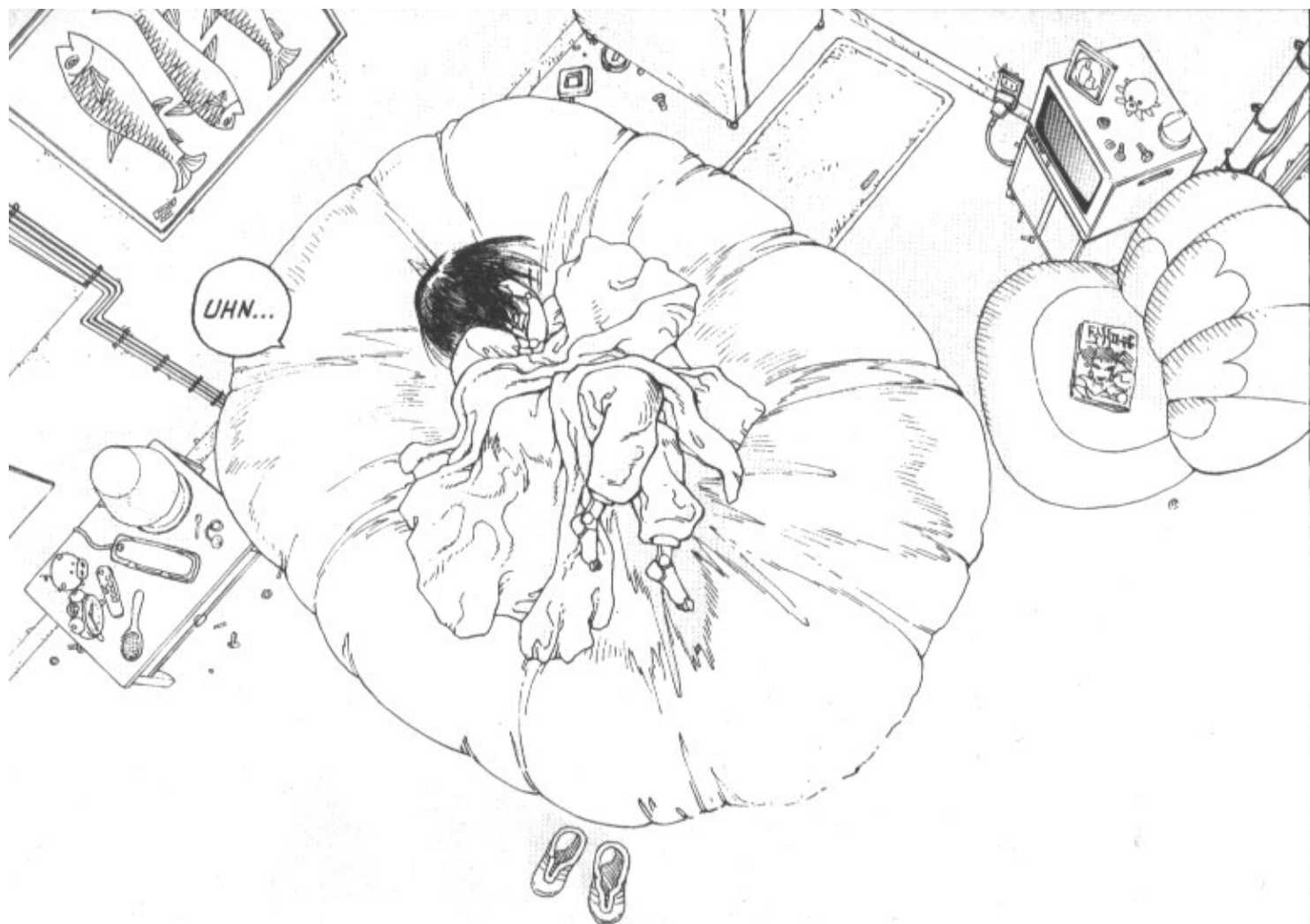














THIS
IS
THE
DREAM!



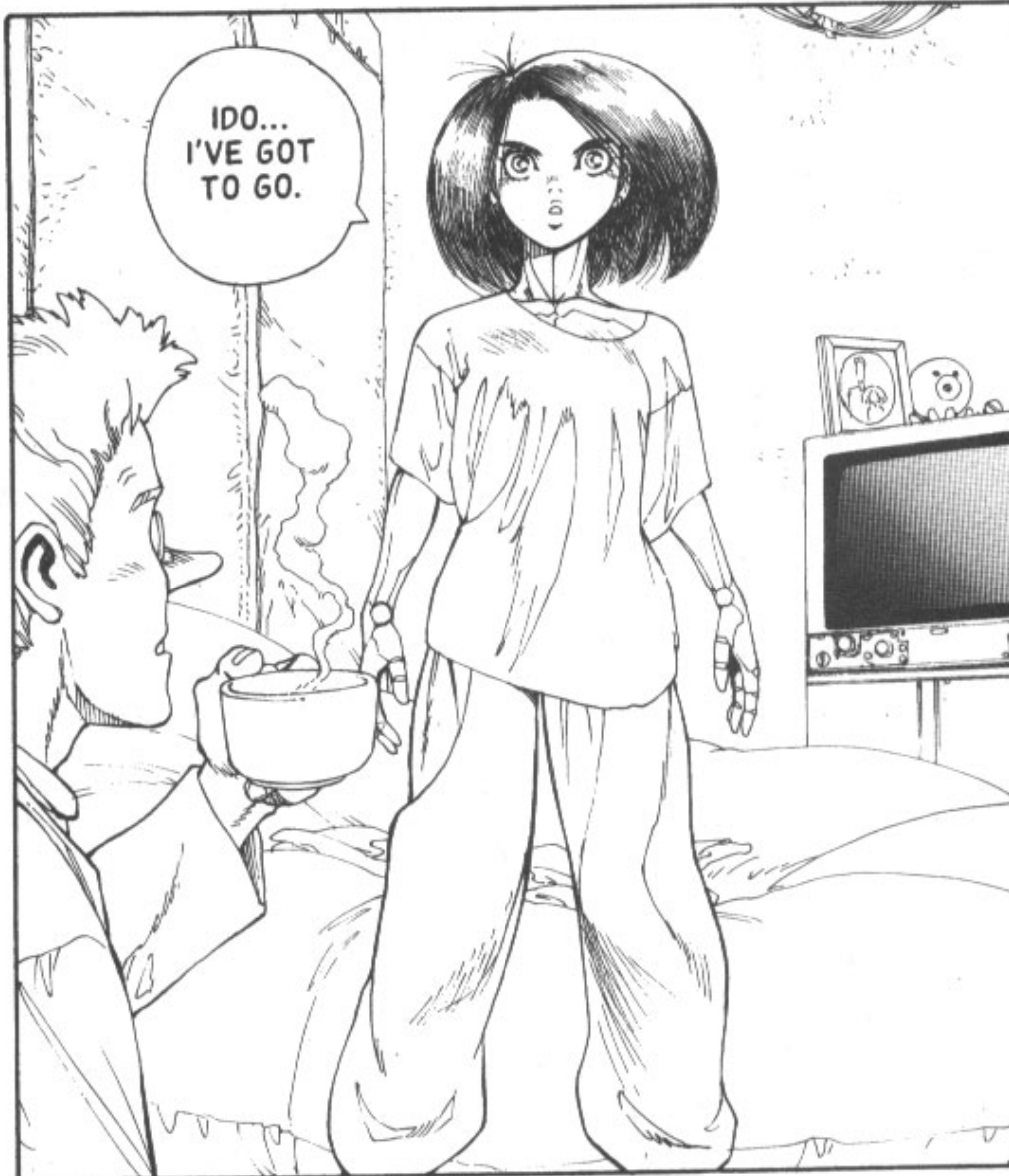
I'M
INSIDE
NOVA'S
TRAP!



SKERSH



!?



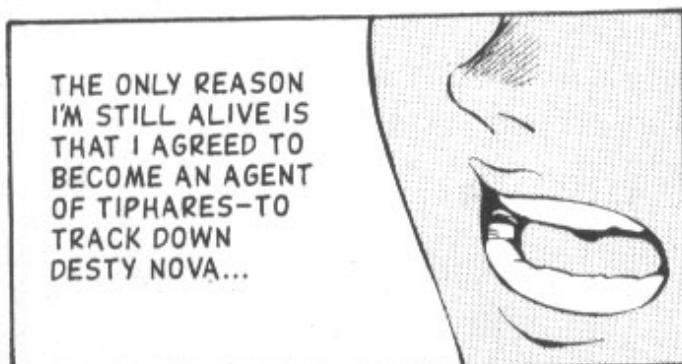
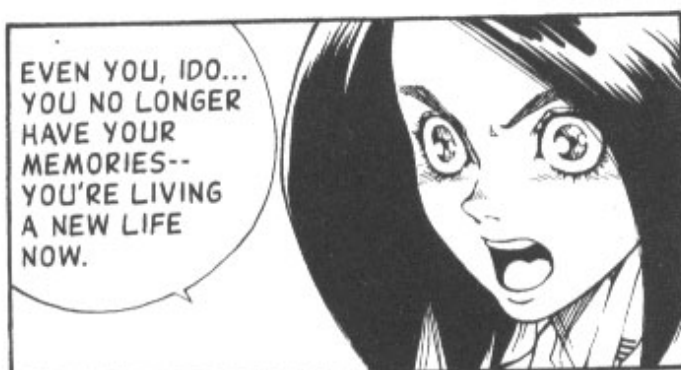
IDO...
I'VE GOT
TO GO.



I'M
INSIDE
MY OWN
DREAM.



A
DREAM,
HUH?







OH,
ALITA!
EVEN IF
IT COST
ME MY
LIFE...

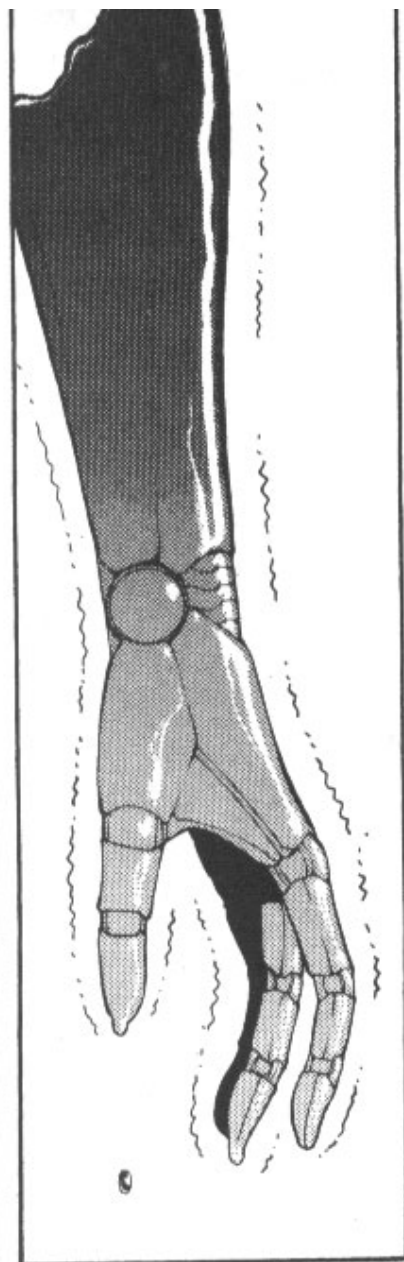
...I WOULD
NEVER LET
YOU SUFFER
THIS MUCH
SADNESS.

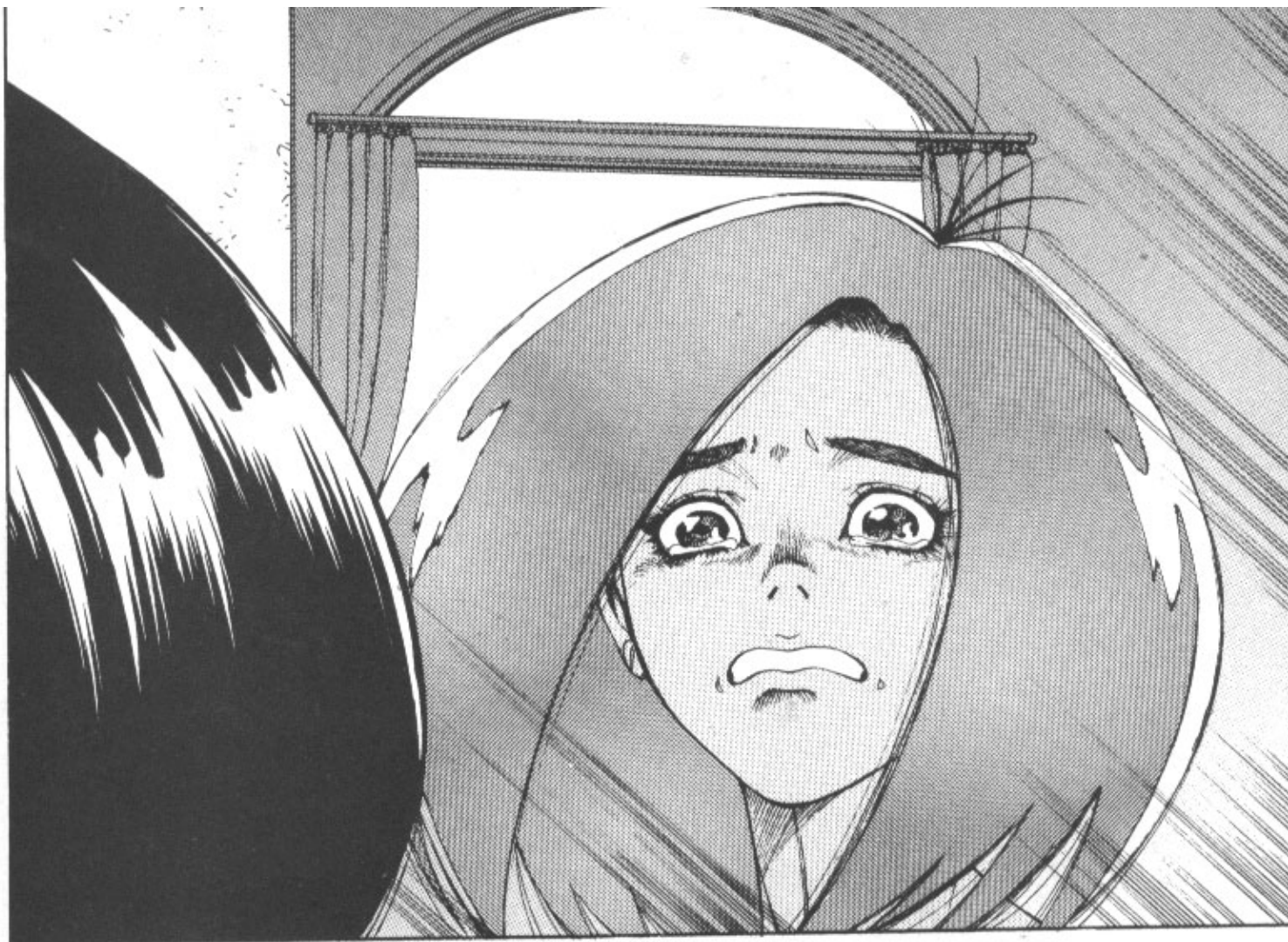


DEAR
IDO...

THIS IS WHERE
I *WANTED* TO
LIVE... THE WORDS
I *WANTED* TO
HEAR... IF ONLY
I COULD STAY
HERE *FOREVER*...







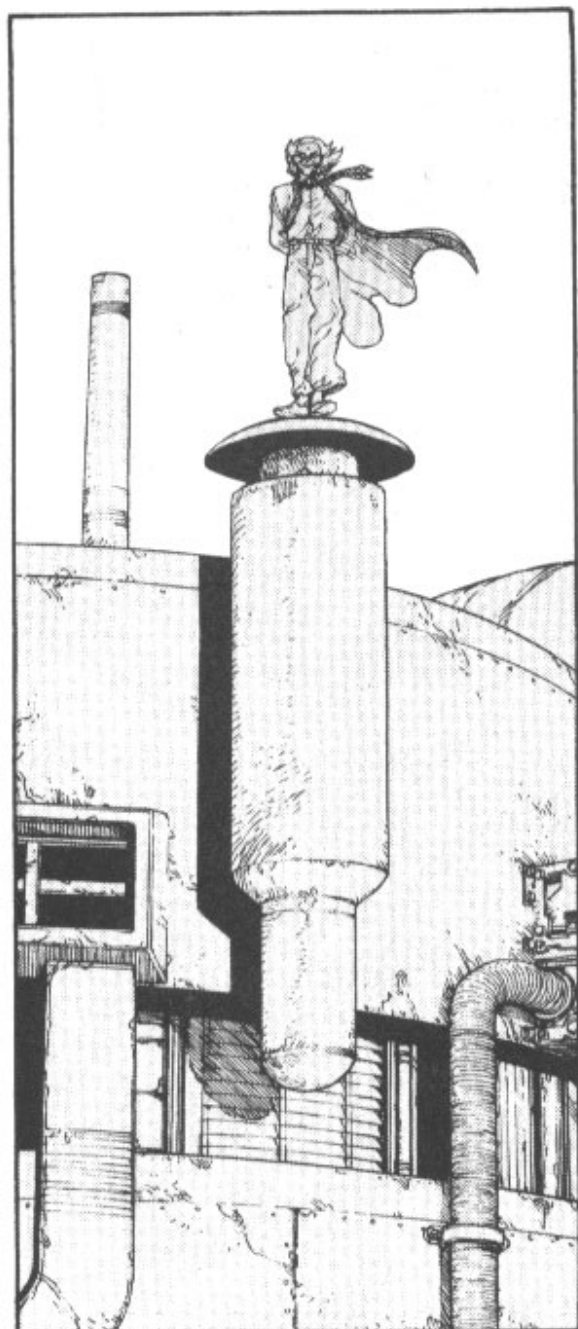


I--I WON'T
DISAGREE
WITH YOU
ANYMORE...

JUST
PLEASE
COME
BACK TO
LIFE...!



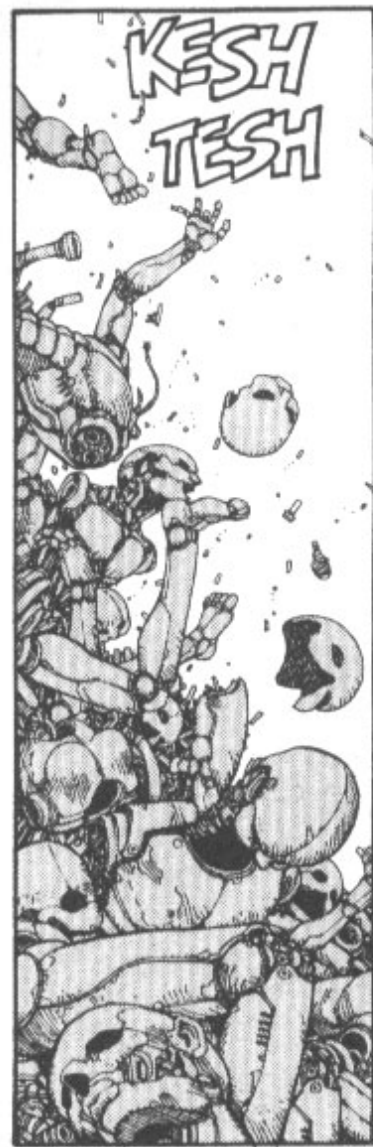
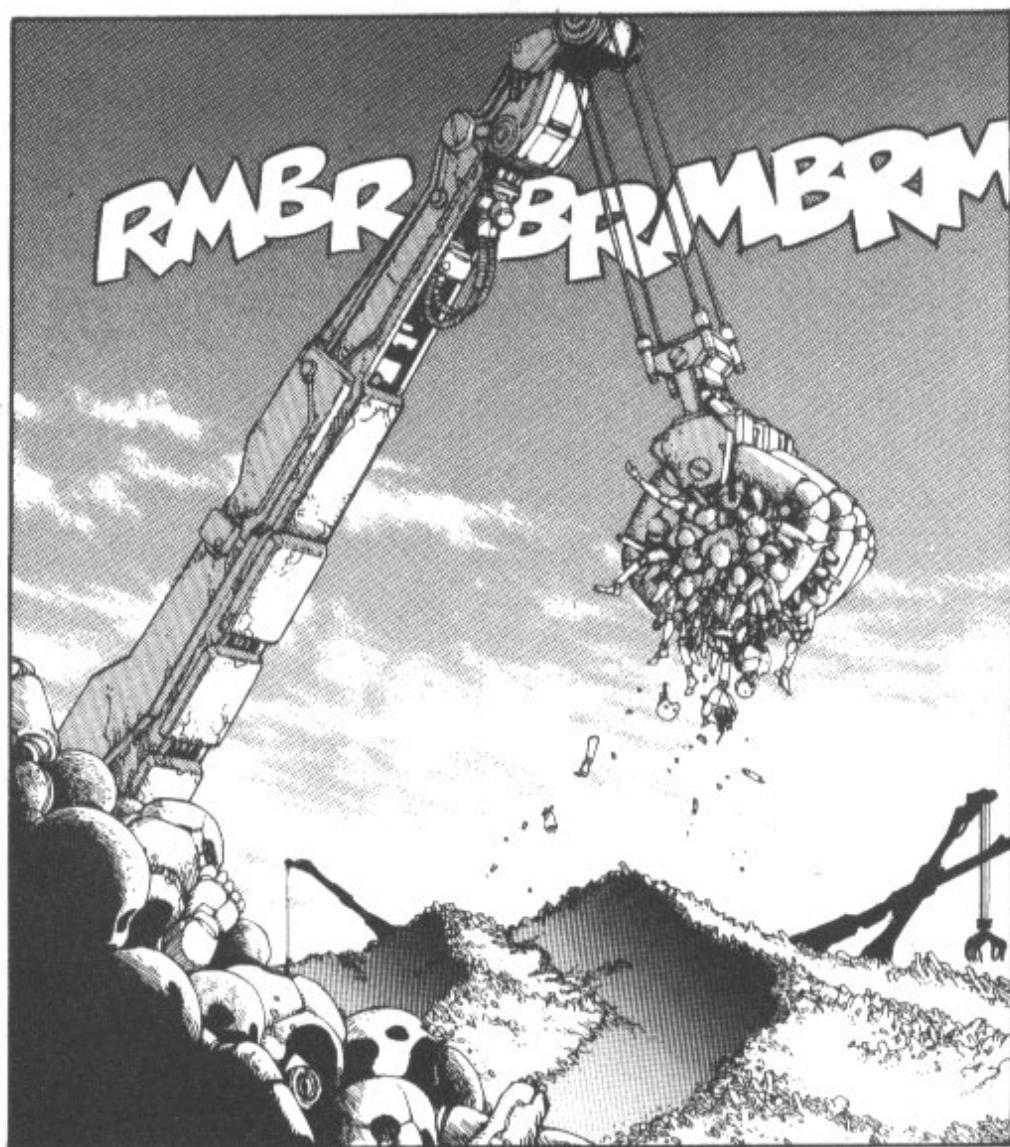
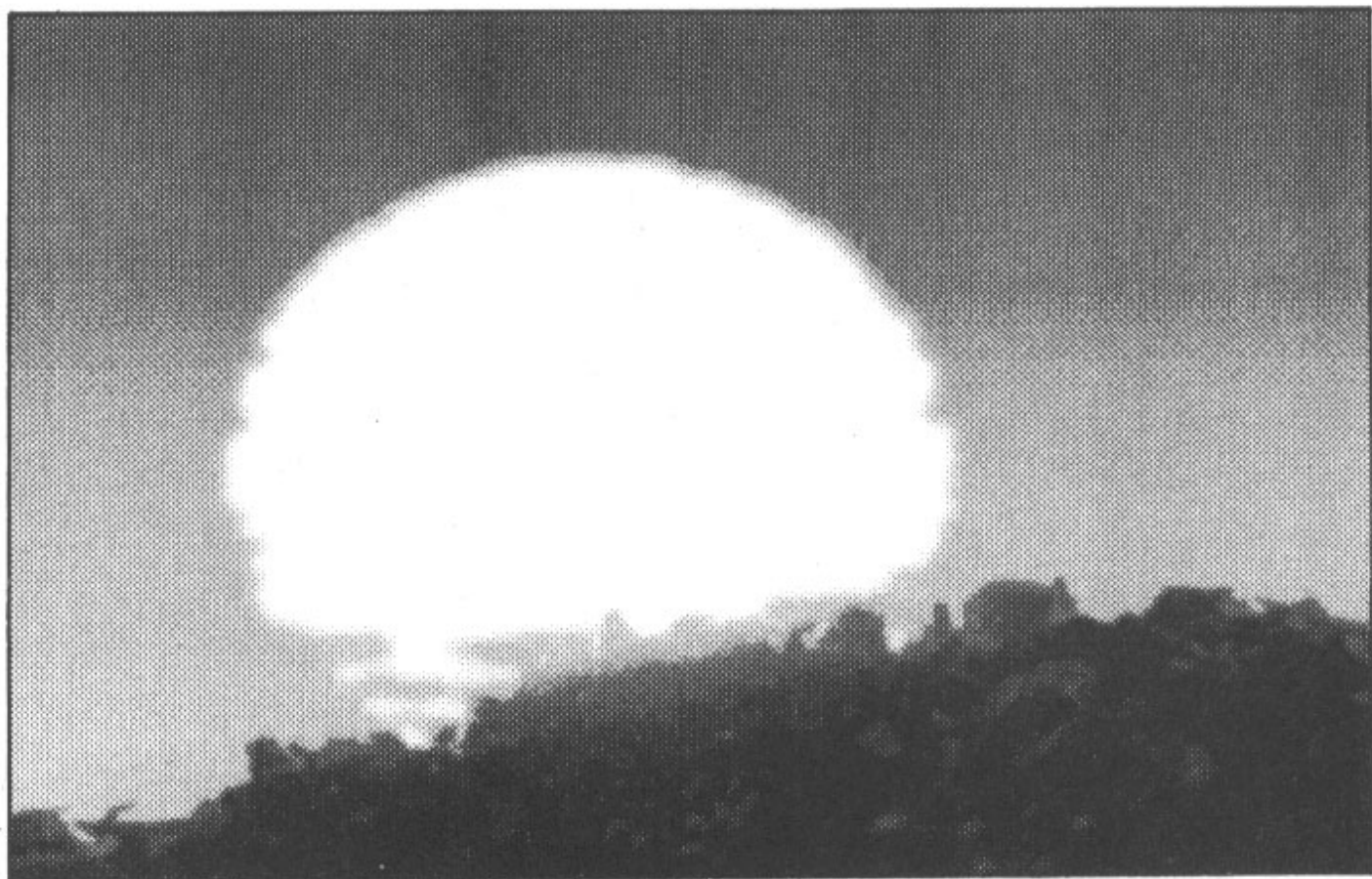
SOMEONE...
ANYONE!
HELP
ME!

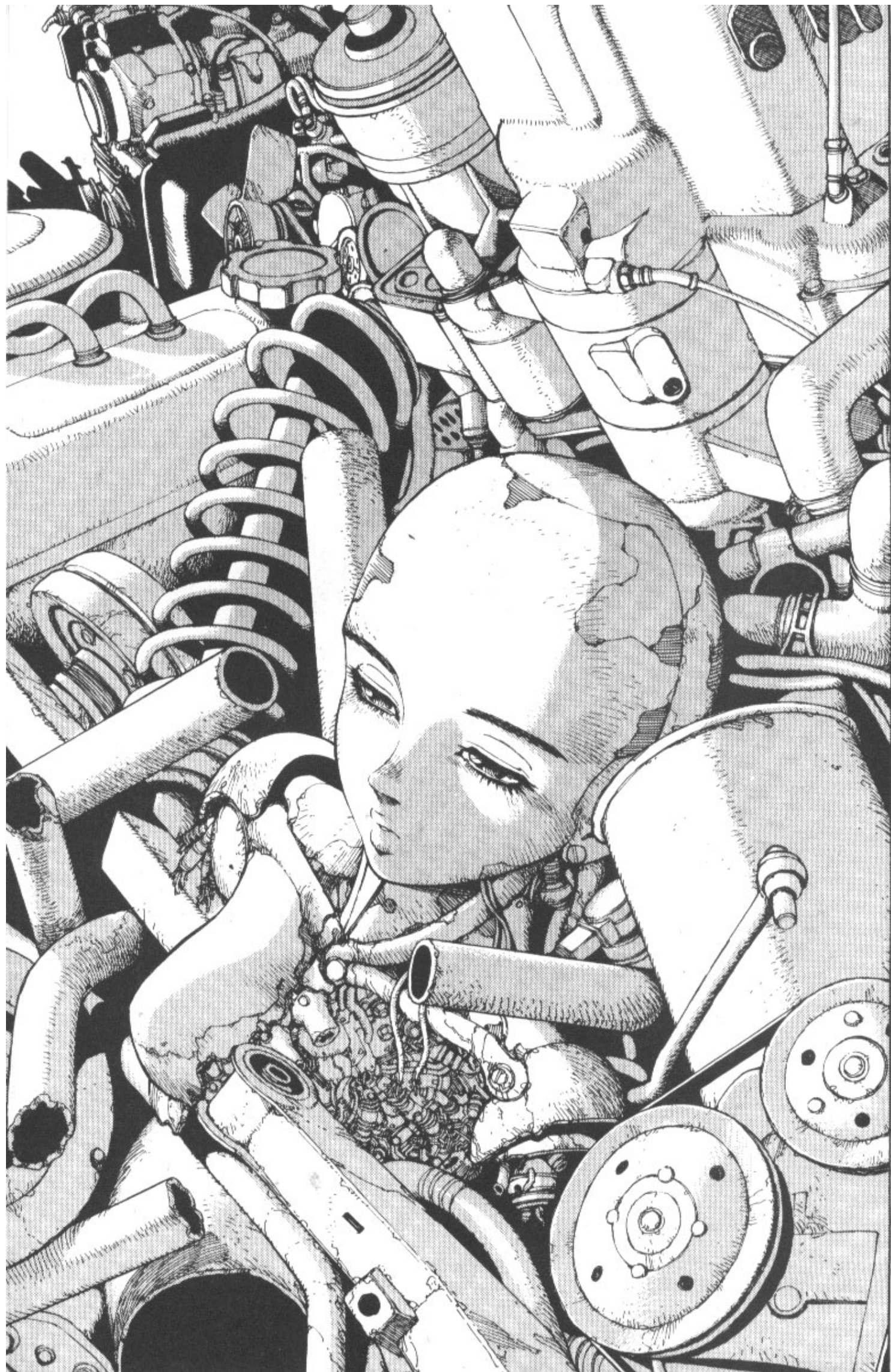


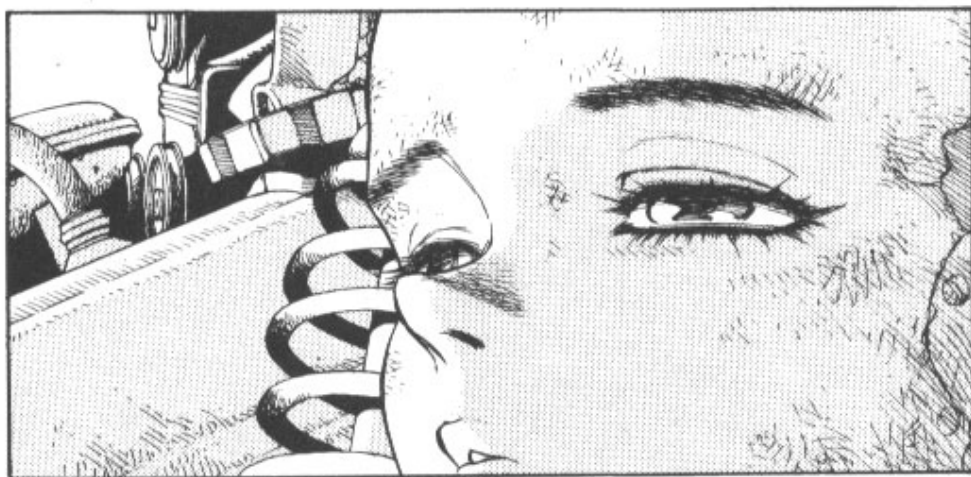
OH, YES...
I'LL *HELP*
YOU...



VW'ON







HEH, HEH,
HEH, HEH!
DON'T YOU
LOOK
PRETTY.

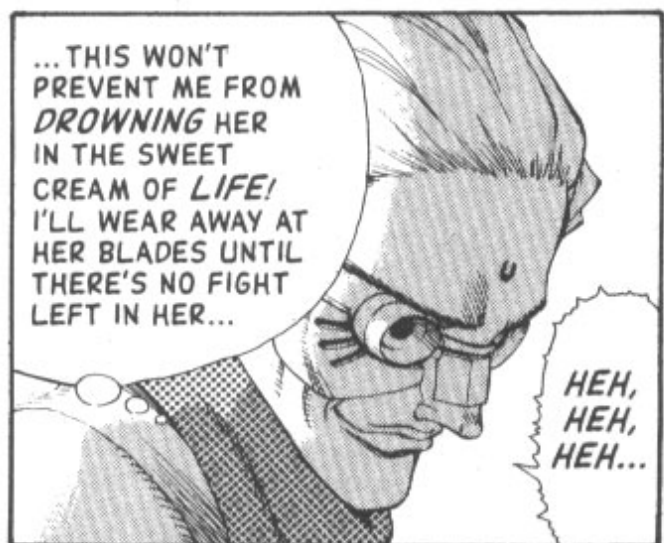
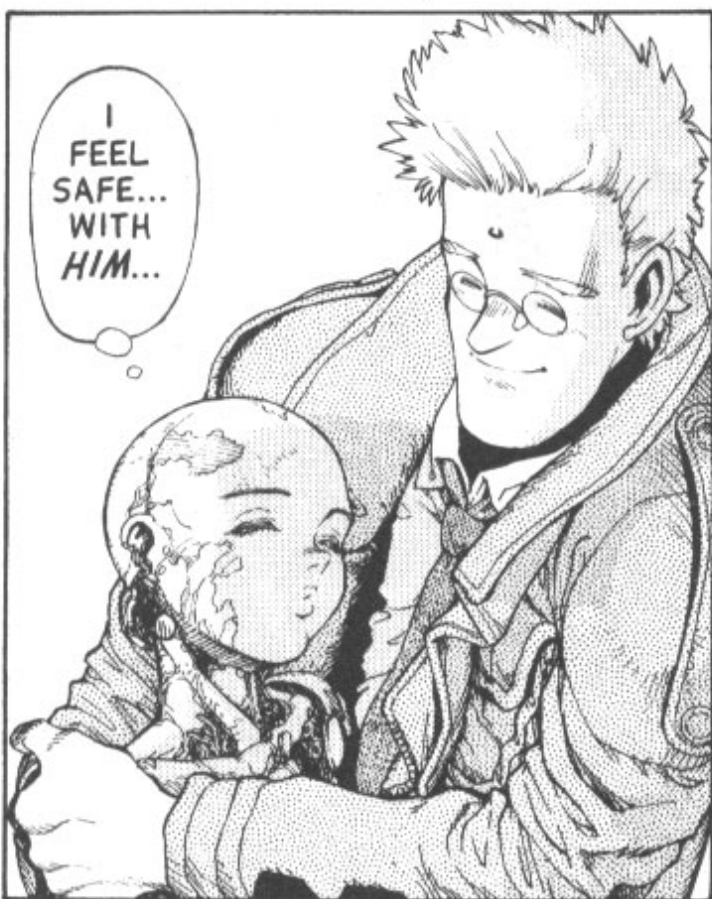
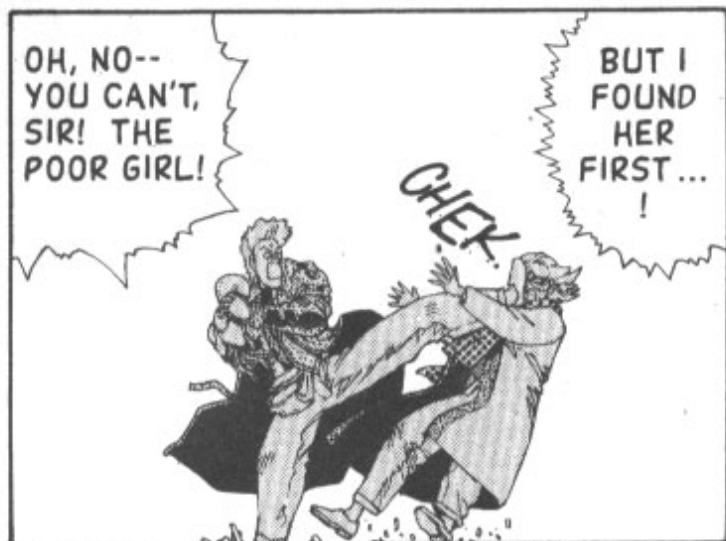
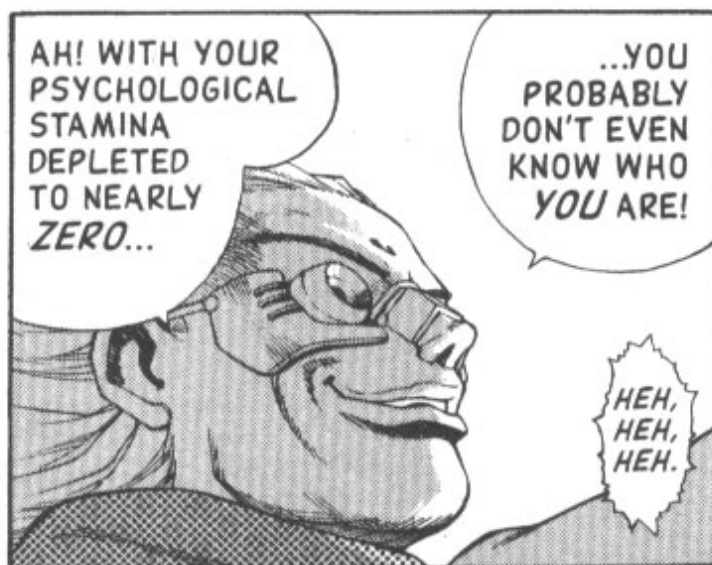
HEH,
HEH,
HEH...

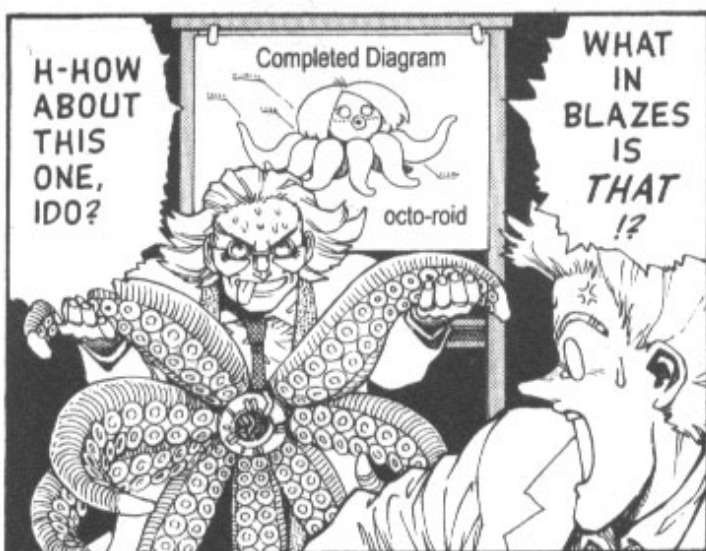
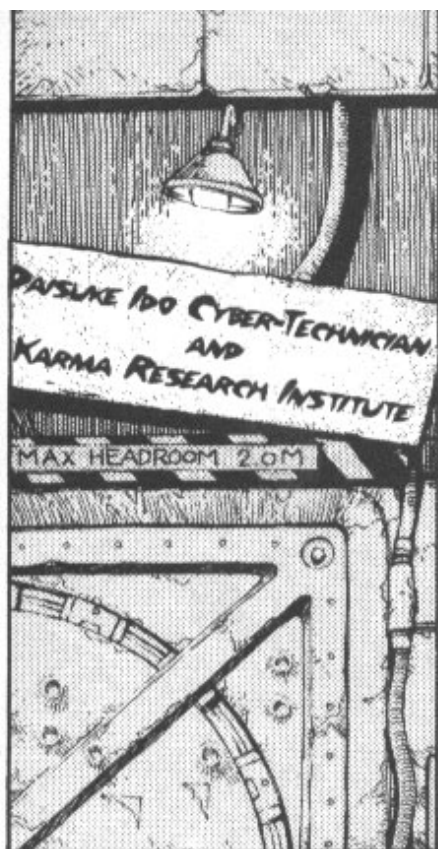
KYA
HAHA-
HAHA-
HA!

WHO...
?

THIS
MAN...

SCARES
ME...







ALTA!



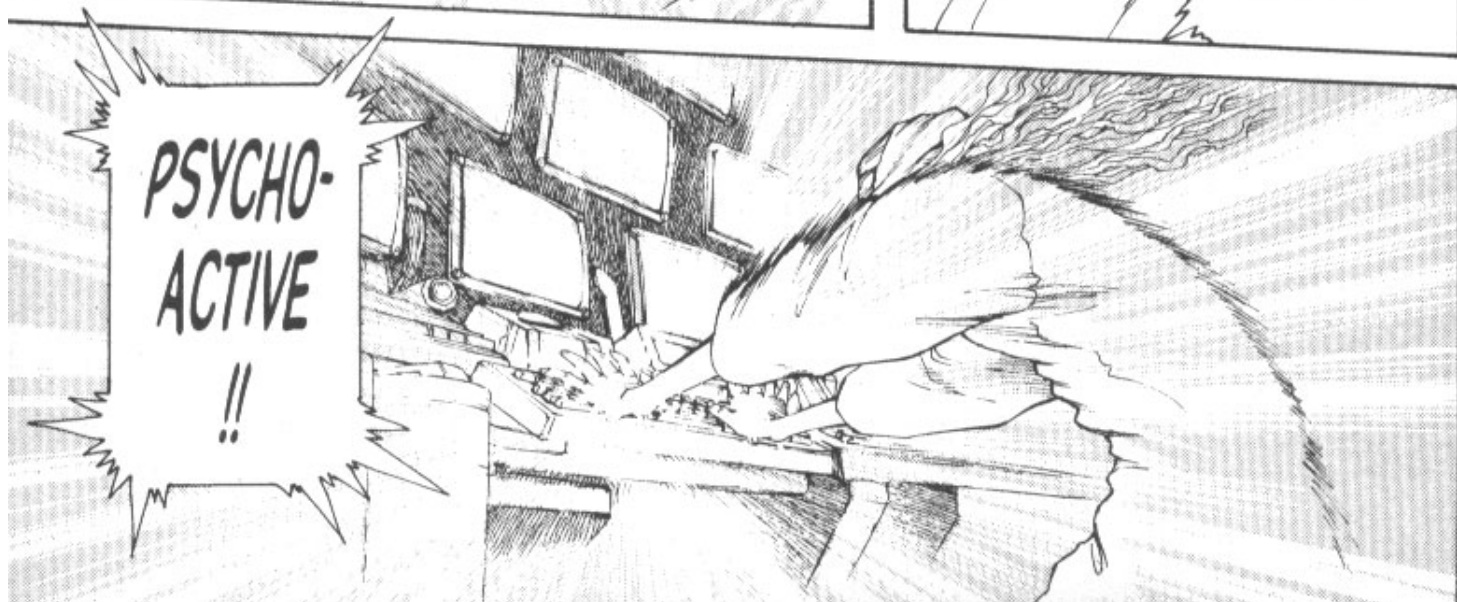
I--I'LL
RESCUE
YOU FROM
THAT
**DREAM-
TRAP!**

I'LL USE MY
PSYCHOMETRY
TO ENTER THE
COMPUTER--
TO DESTROY
THE
OUROBOROS
PROGRAM
FROM THE
INSIDE!

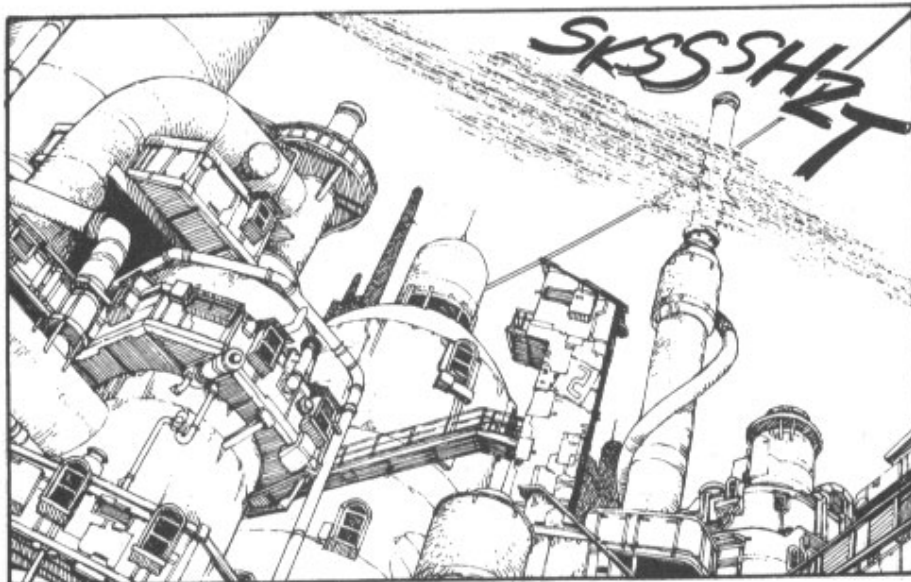
I'VE ALWAYS
FEARED THE
HEART OF A
MACHINE...



BUT I HAVE
TO DO THIS!
**WHATEVER
IT TAKES!**

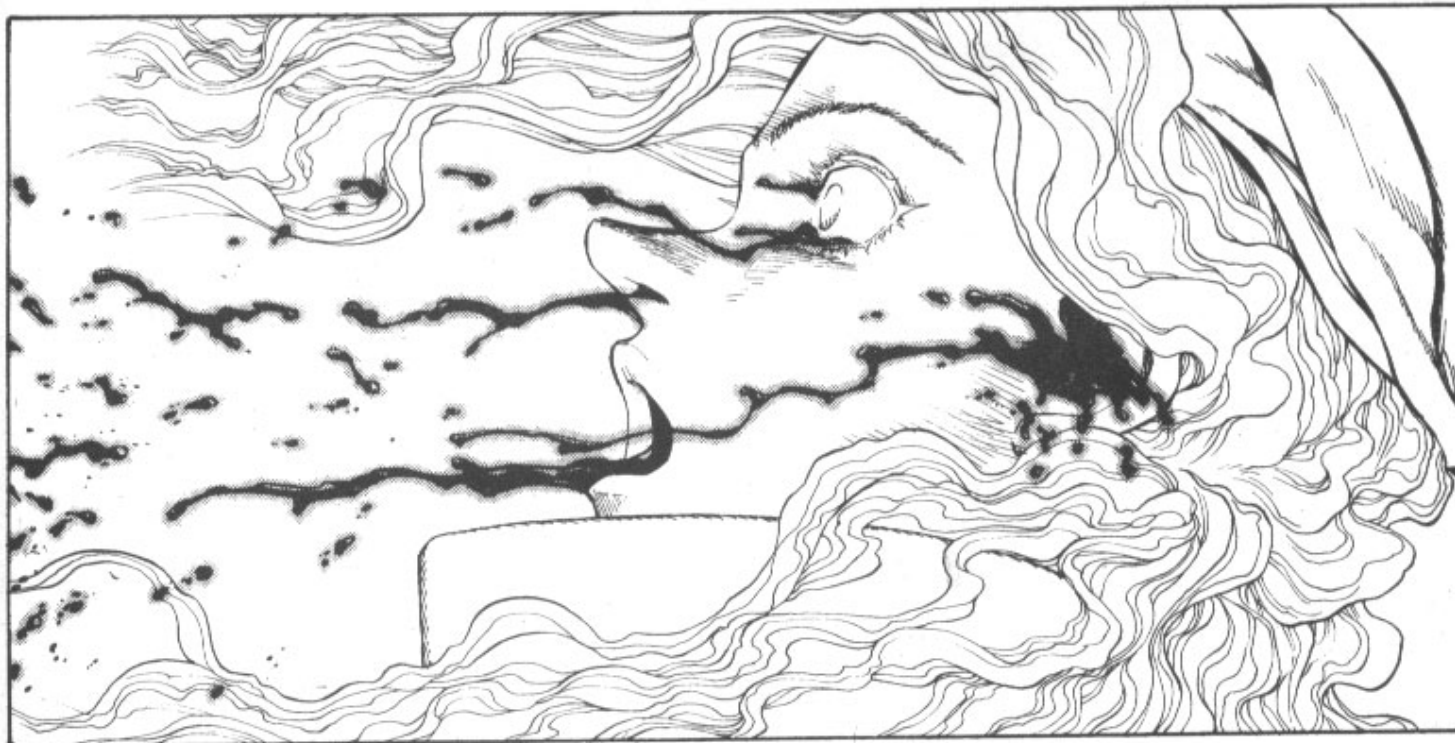


**PSYCHO-
ACTIVE**
!!



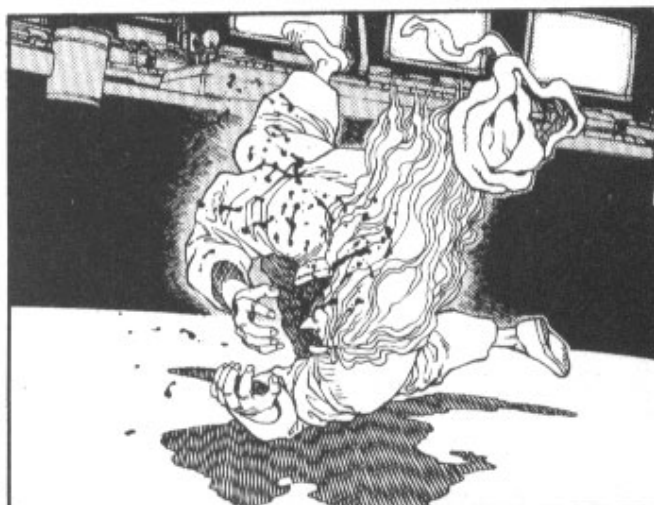
SILLY
BOY...

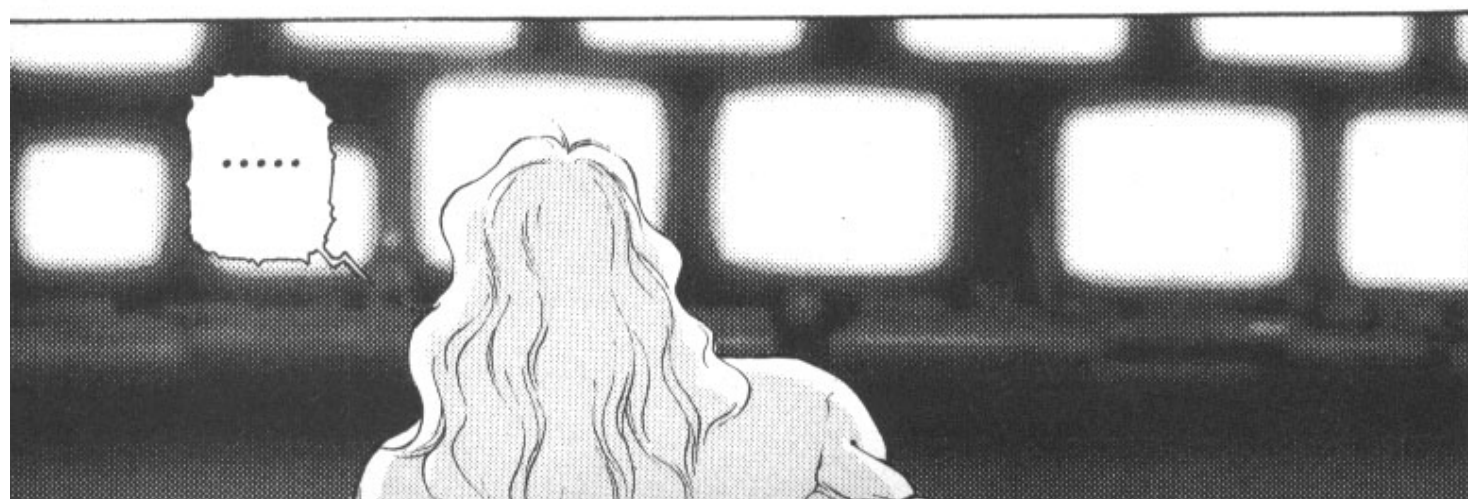
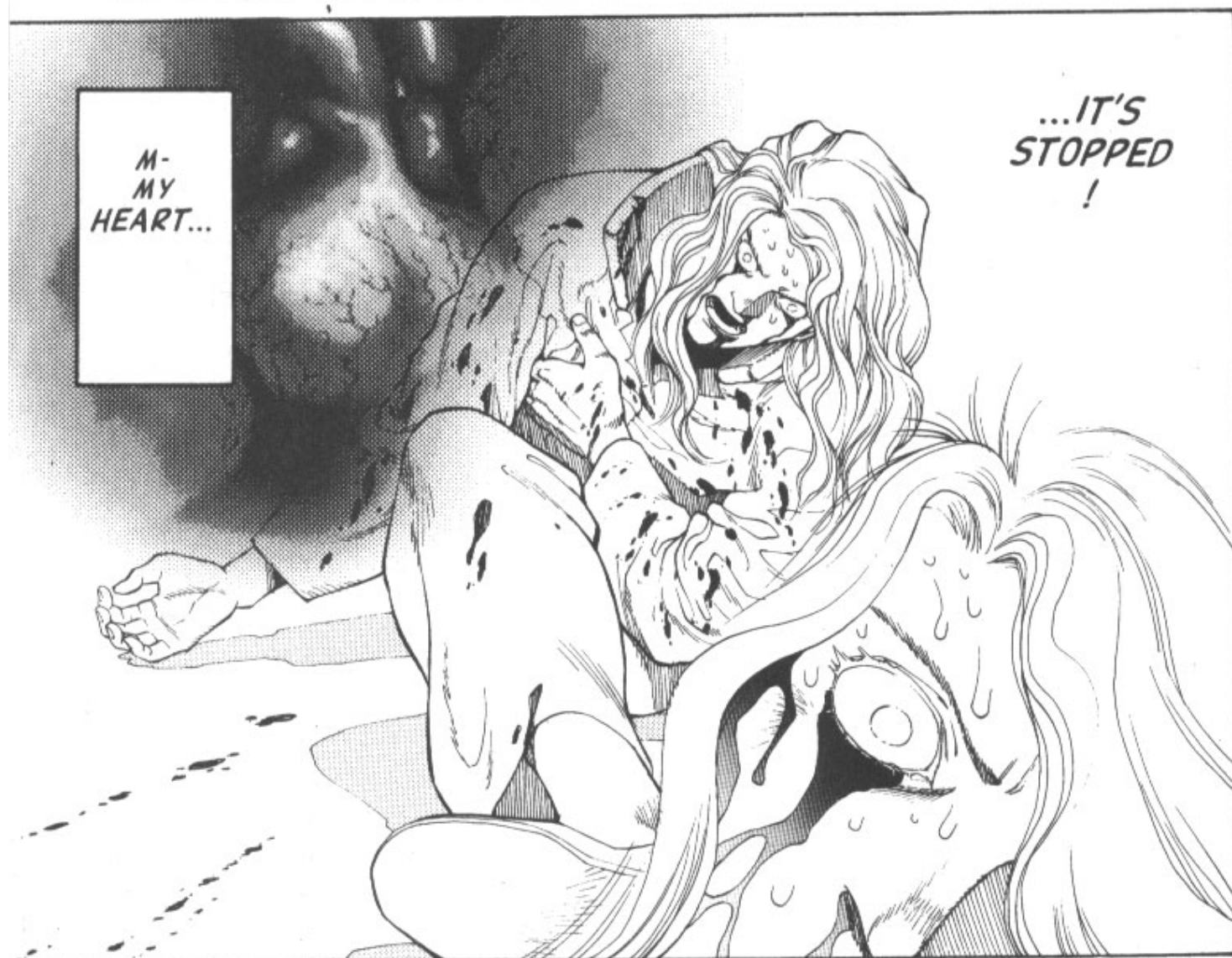
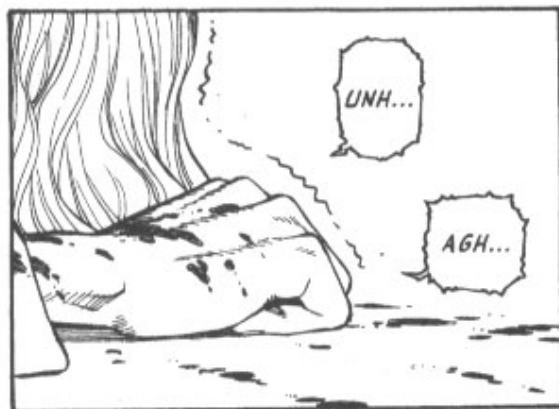
THE
OUROBOROS
PROGRAM IS
MELED INTO
THE *TUNED'S*
DIGITAL LINK--
UTTERLY SAFE
FROM OUTSIDE
FORCES.



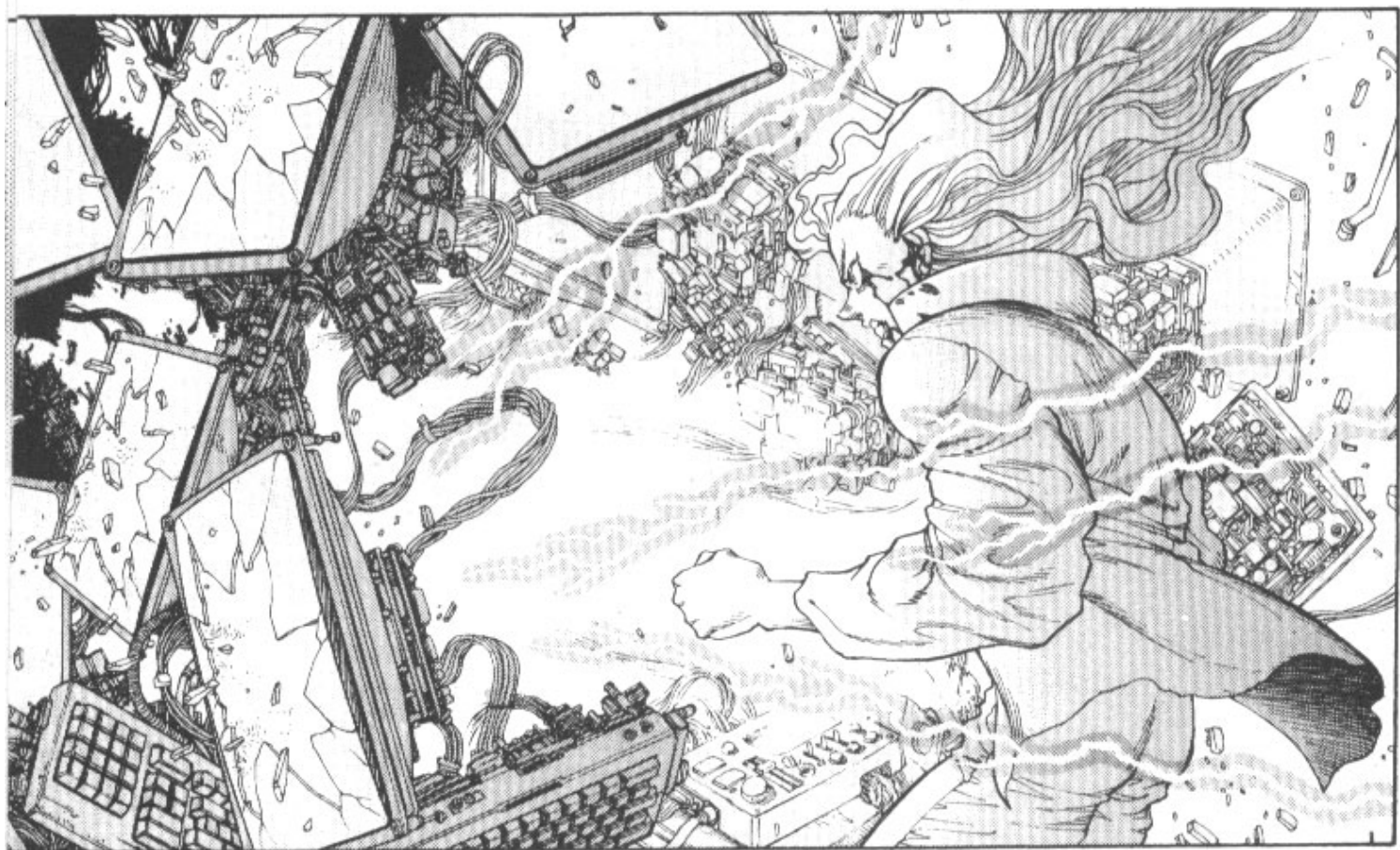
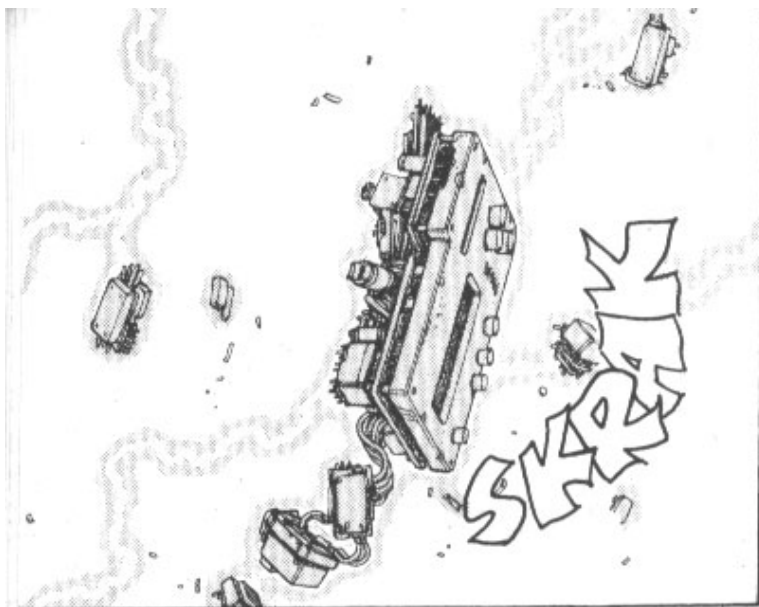
TO THINK THAT
HE IMAGINES A
SINGLE HUMAN
MIND CAN TAKE
ON THE HYPER-
COMPUTERS OF
BOTH TIPHARES
AND MY
GRANITE INN...
RIDICULOUS!

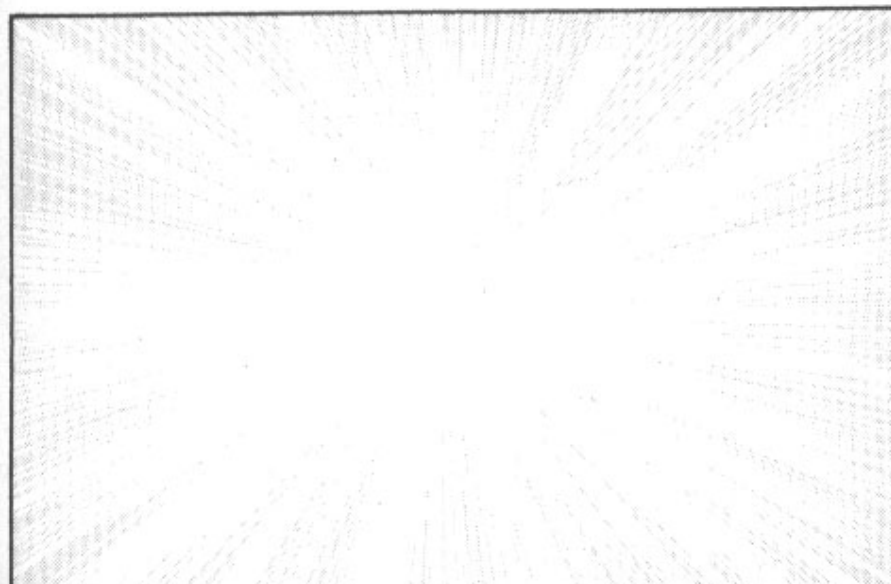
SUFFER,
MY SON!
REALIZE
YOUR
IMPOTENCE
!







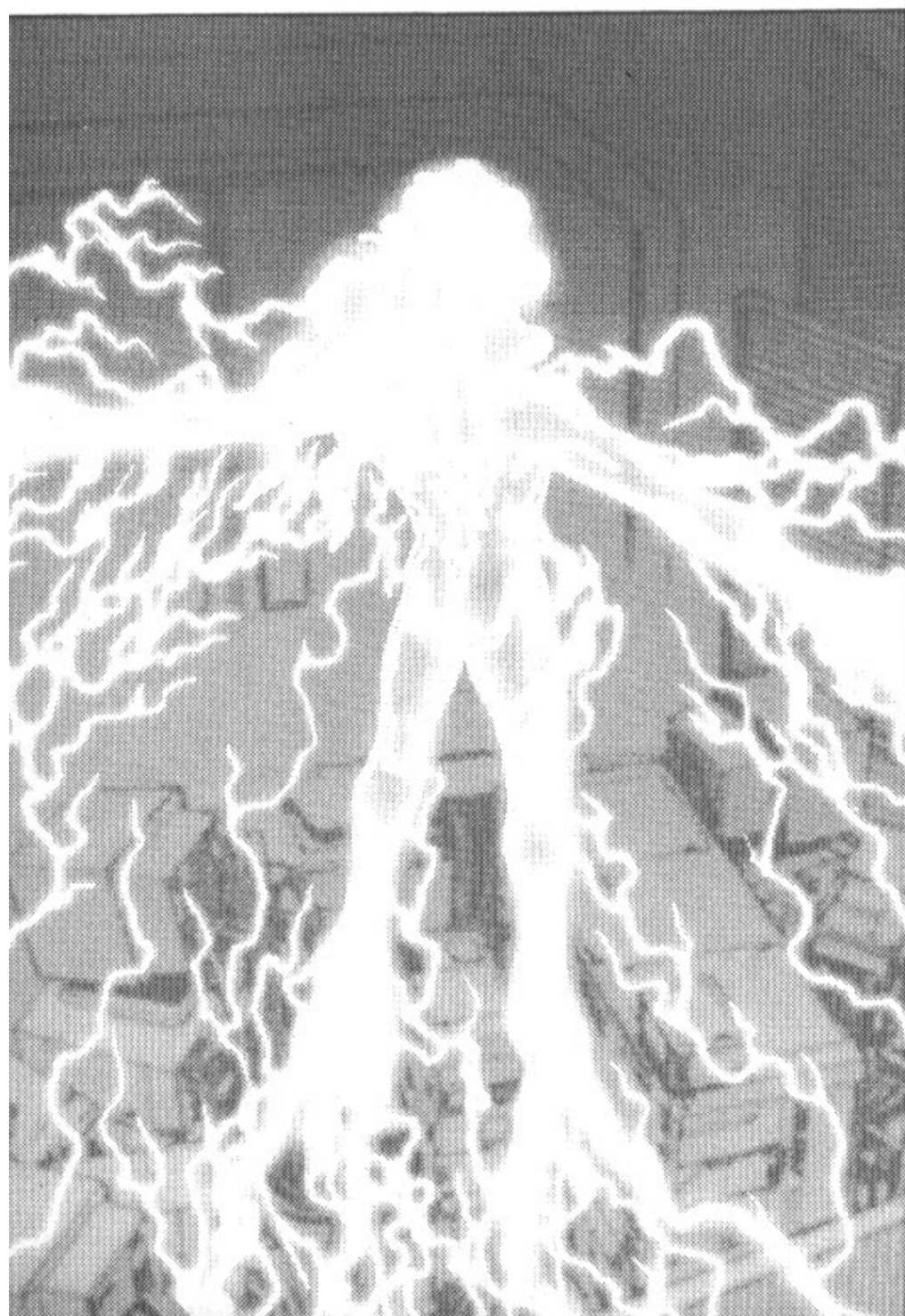
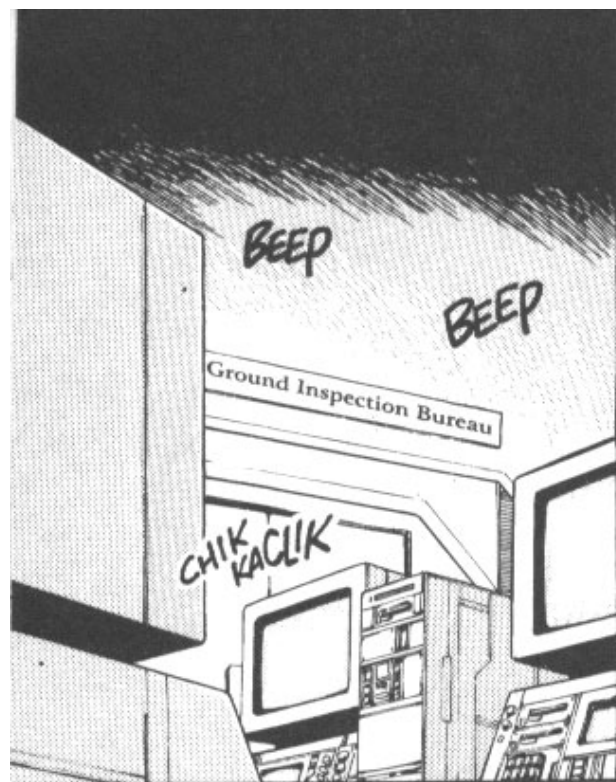


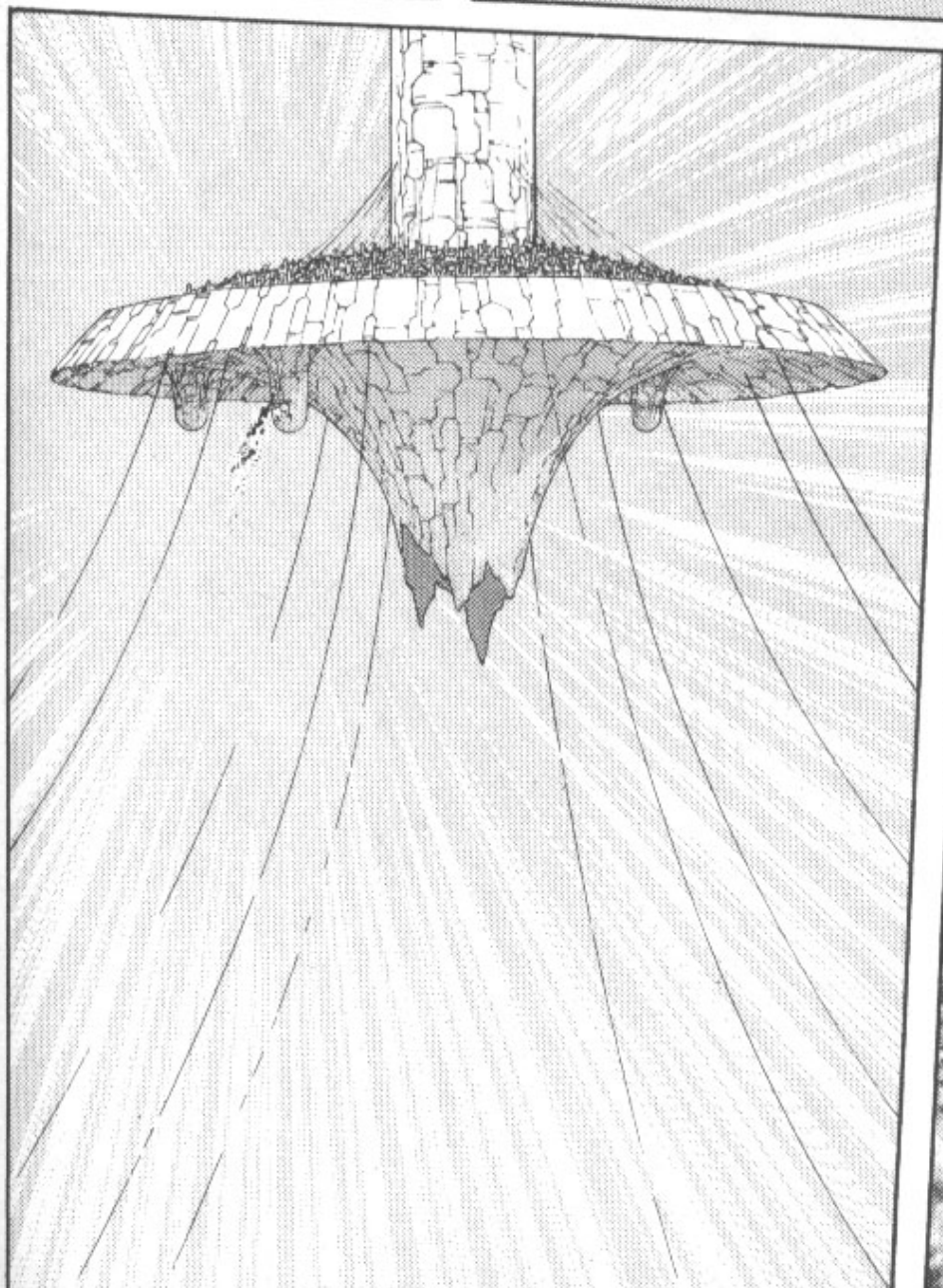


KEE

E

KEE







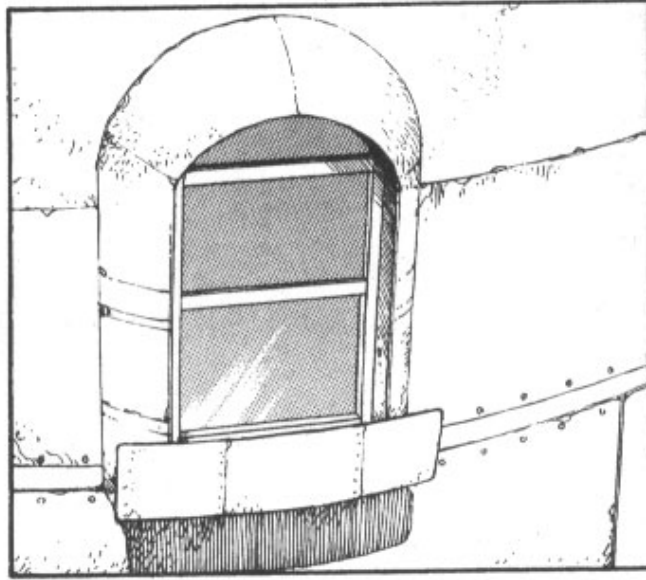
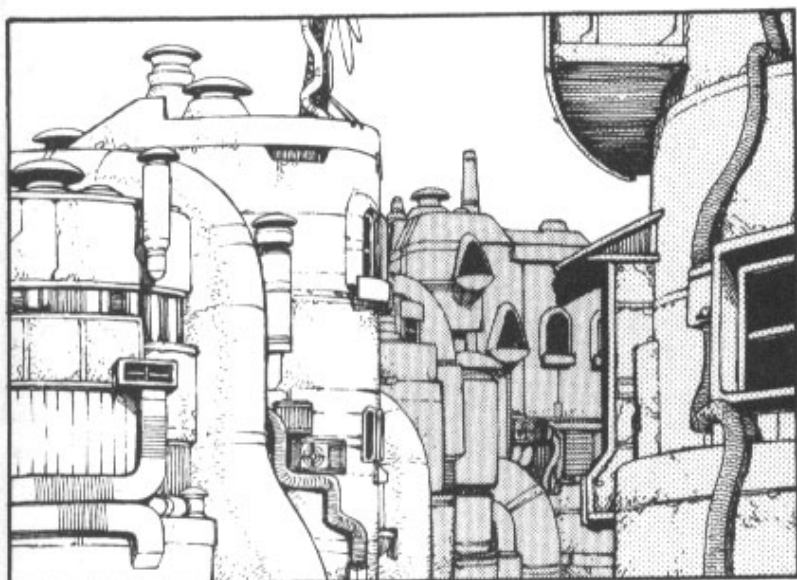
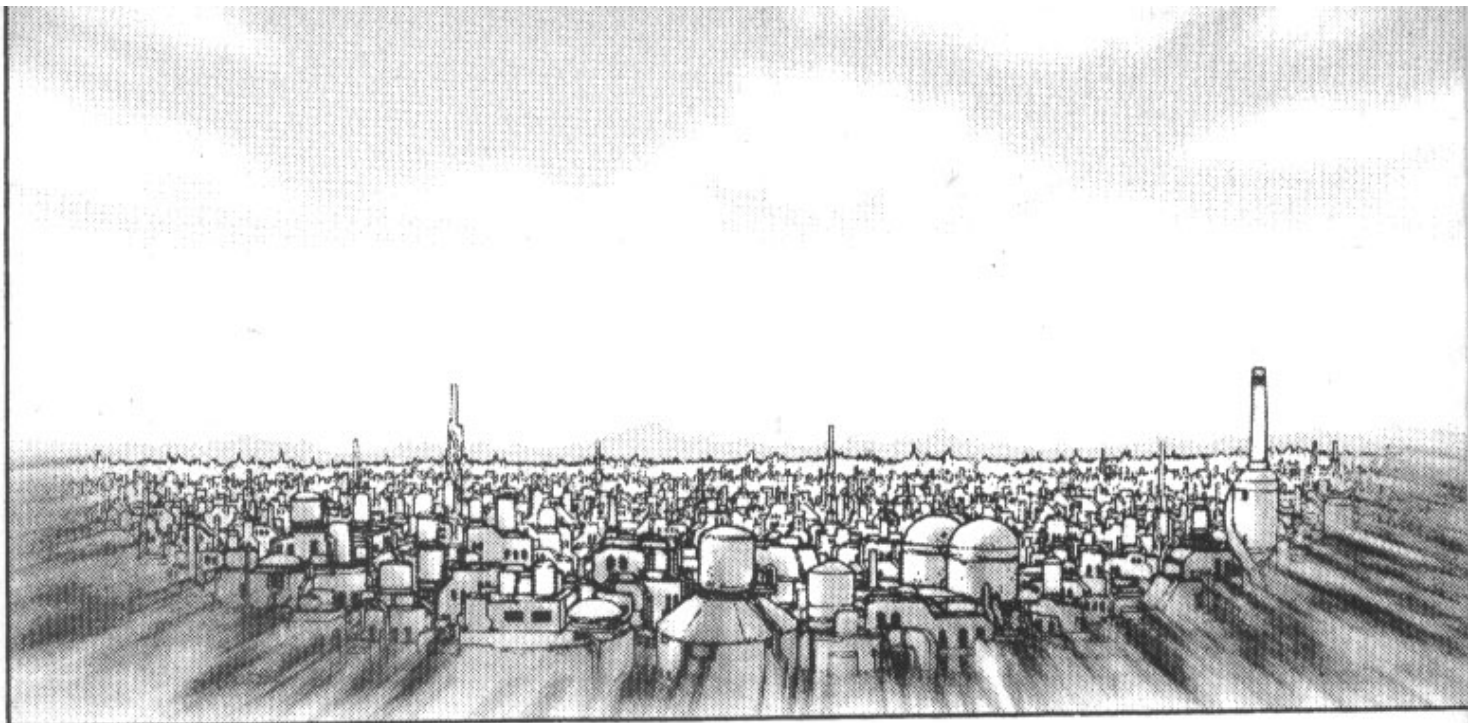
SO *THIS*
IS
OUROBOROS
!

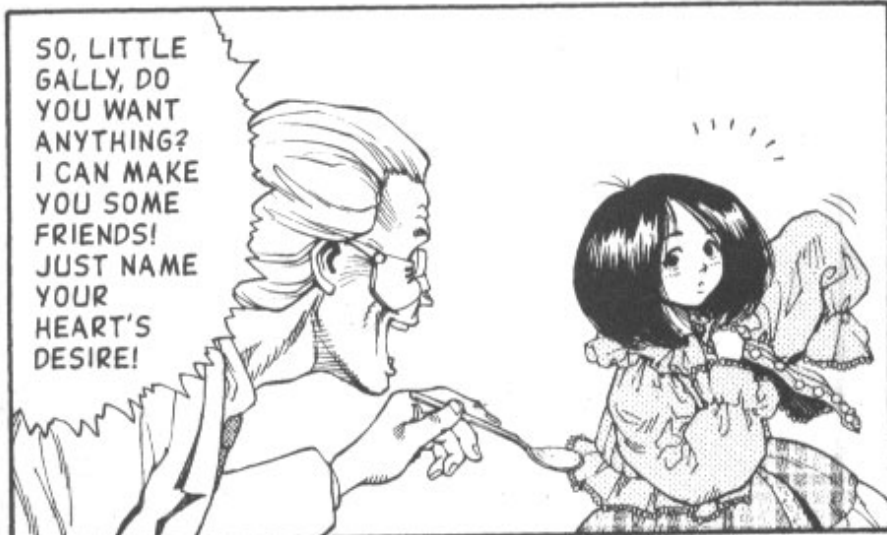
I DON'T KNOW HOW
LONG MY BODY WILL
LAST WITH A
STOPPED HEART ...!

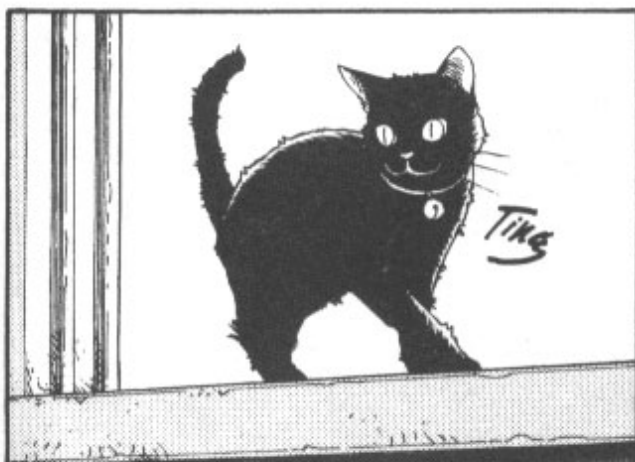
WHAT A
MONSTROUS
CONSTRUCTION! ANY
ATTEMPT TO DESTROY
THE PROGRAM WILL
CAUSE THE **UTTER**
BREAKDOWN
OF ALITA'S
PSYCHE...

BUT
I'VE GOT
NO TIME
LEFT!

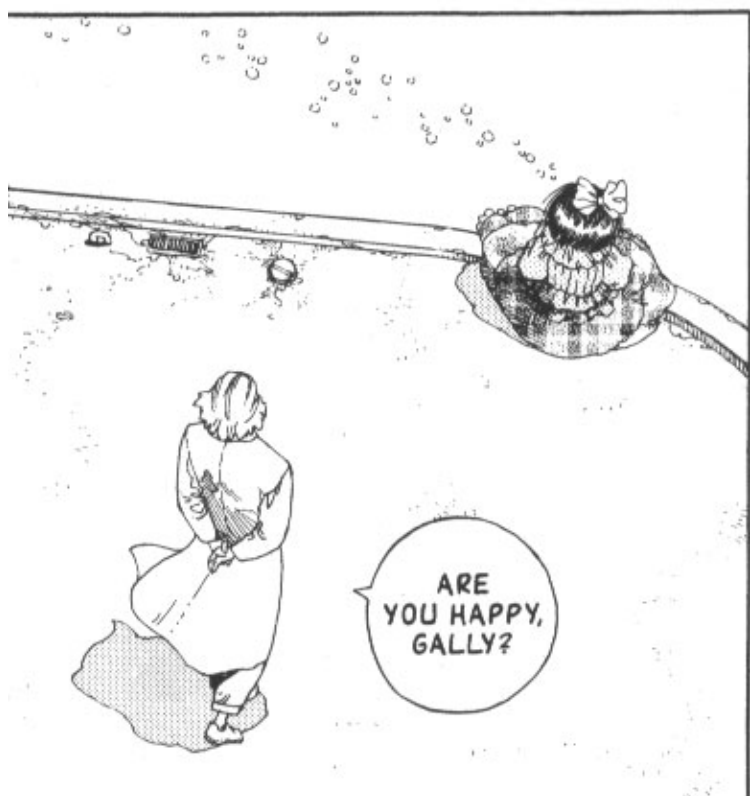
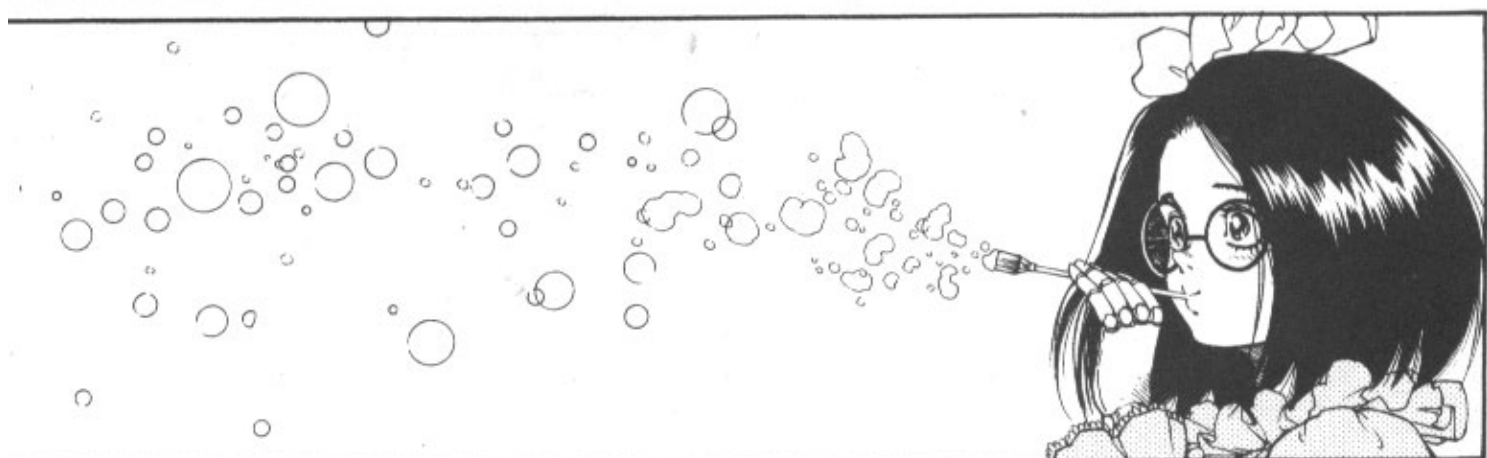
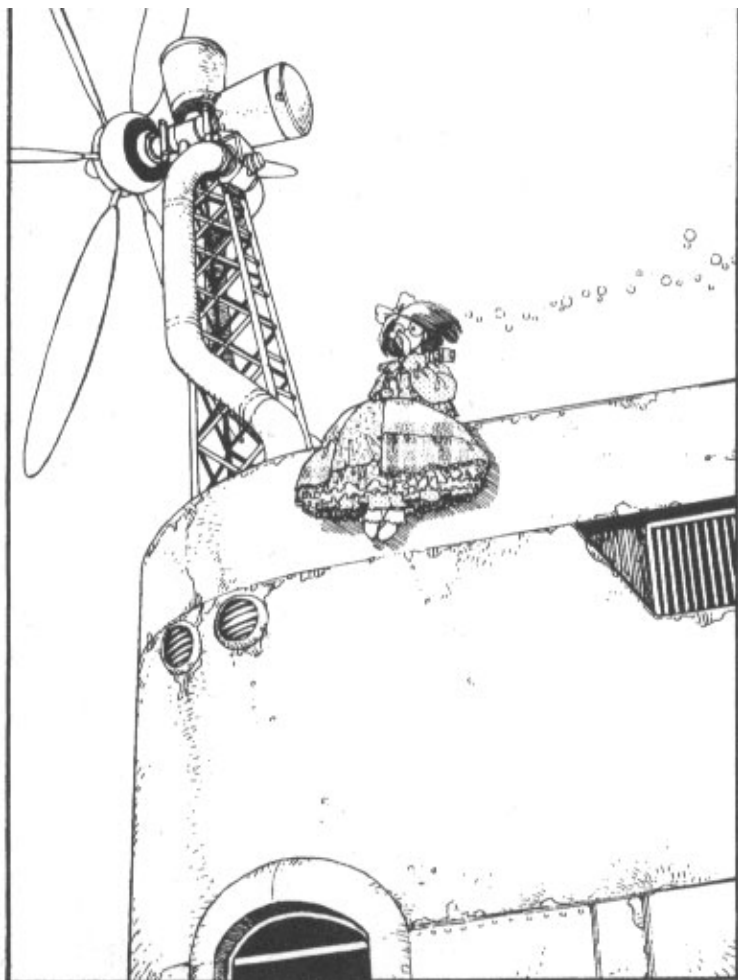
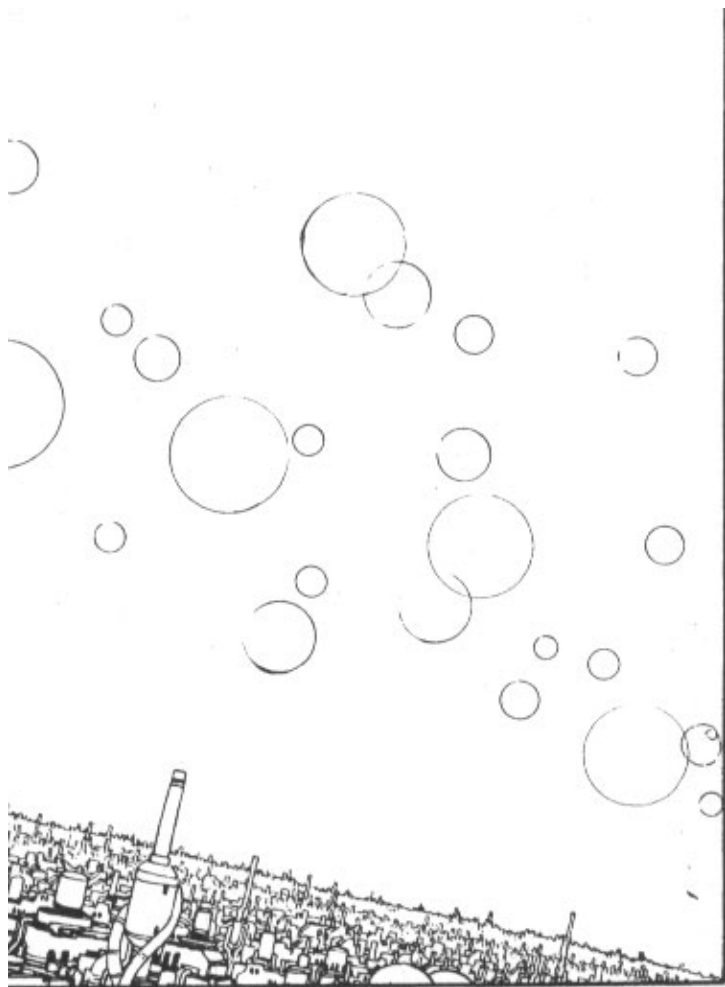


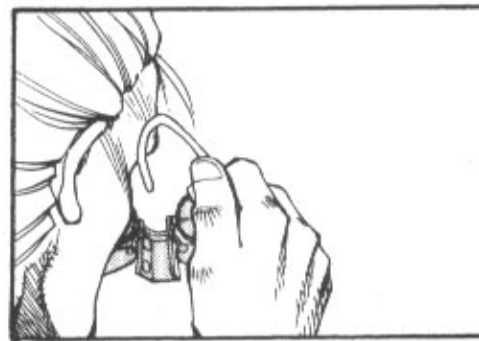
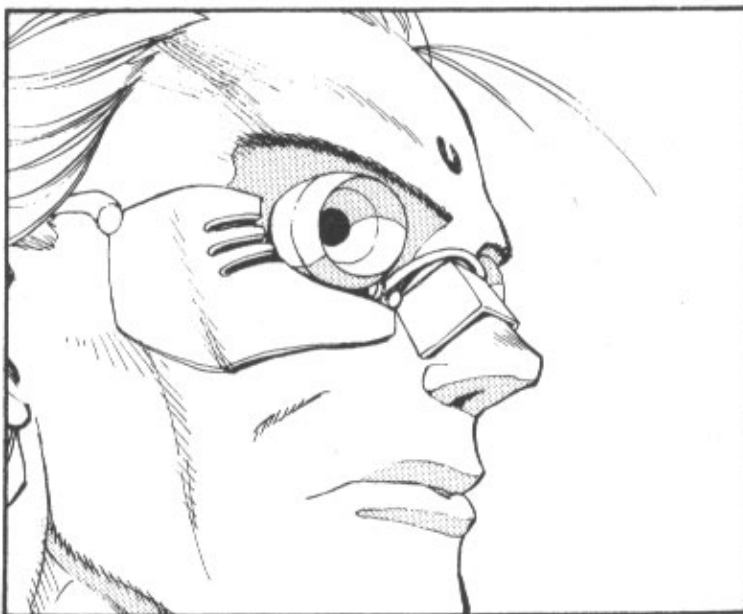
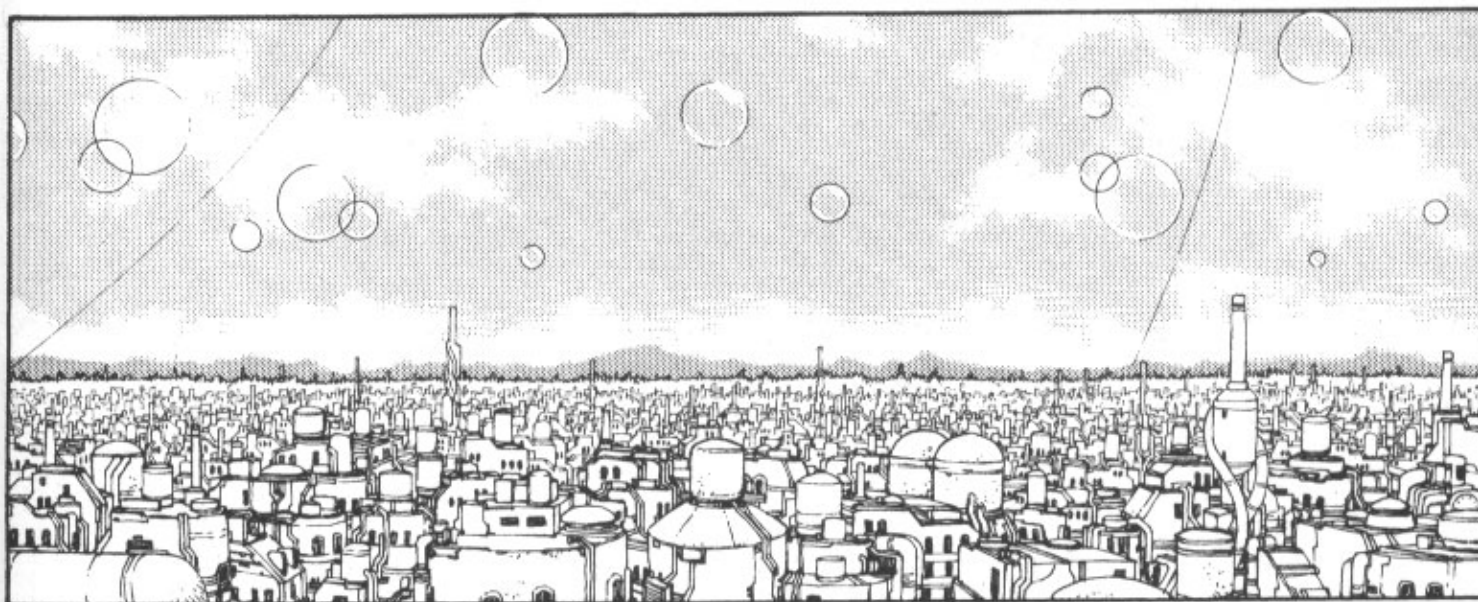


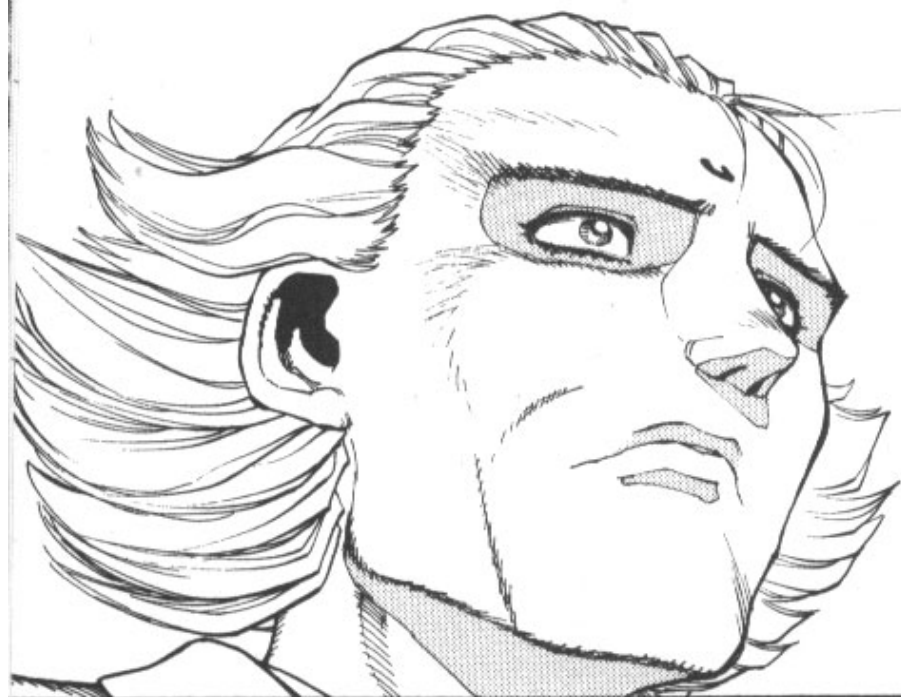




* "ALITA" WAS THE NAME OF IDO'S CAT, WHO DIED BEFORE IDO FOUND ALITA IN THE SCRAP PILE.
(SEE THE FIRST BATTLE ANGEL ALITA GRAPHIC NOVEL)







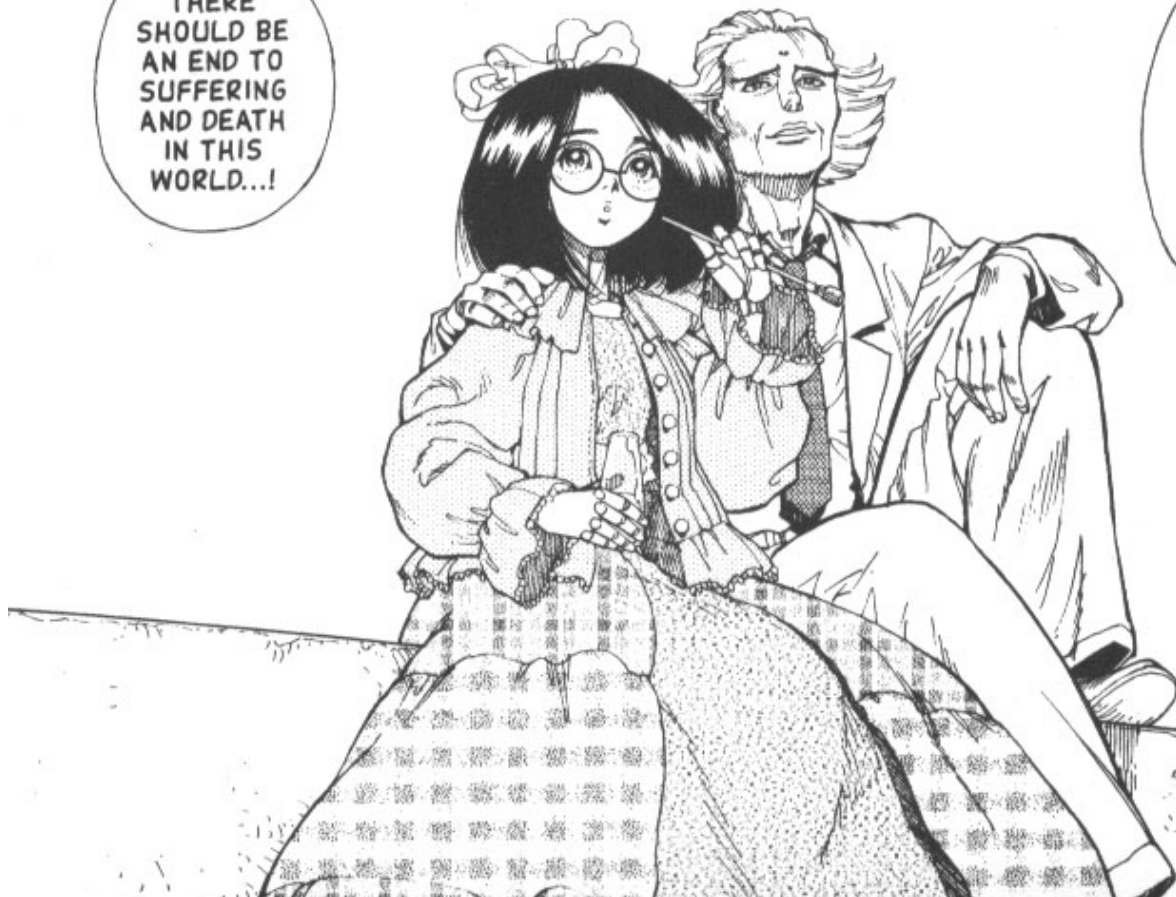
...UNTIL
NOW...

...WHAT
WAS IT I
WAS
RUNNING
TOWARD...?

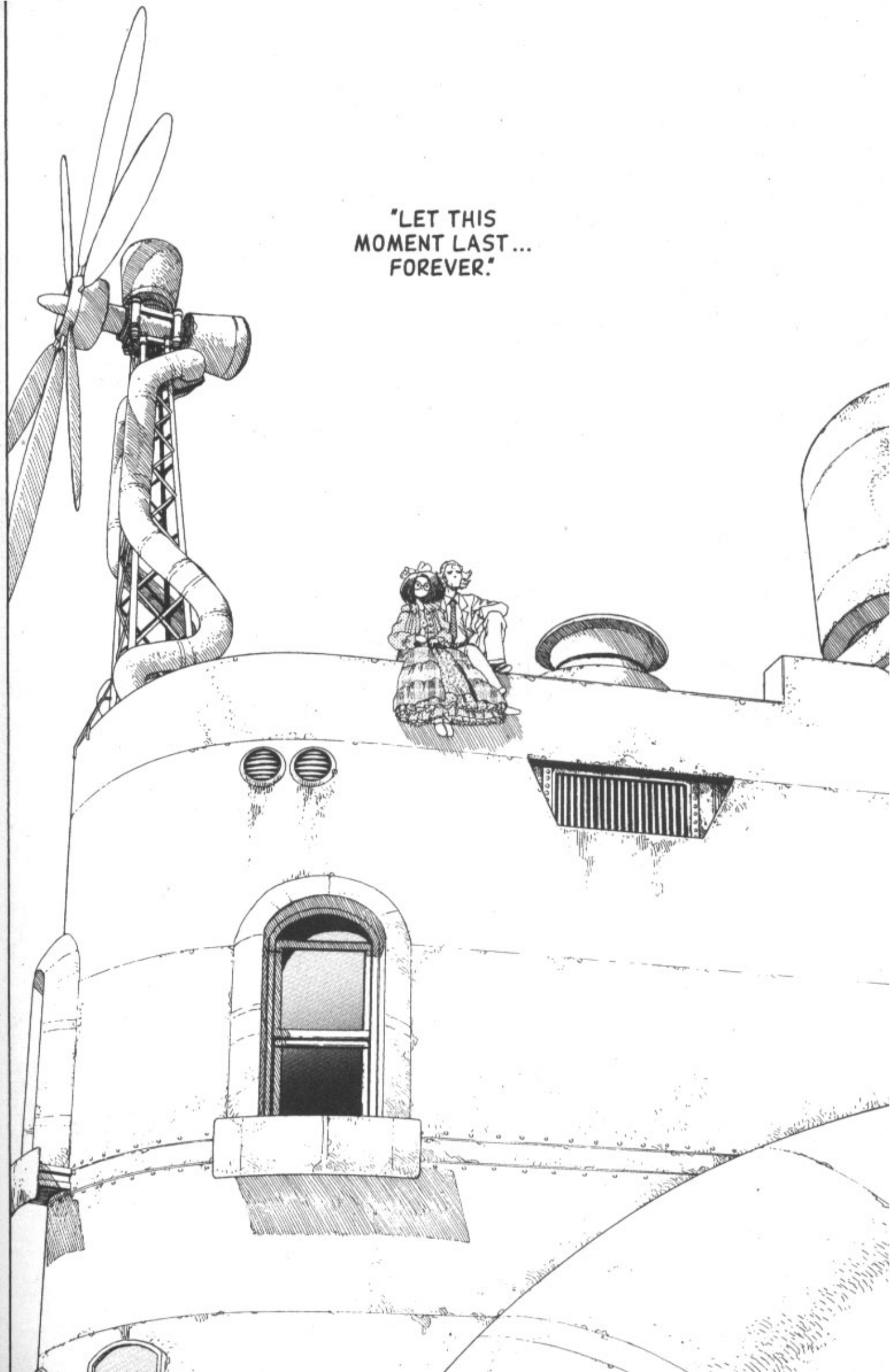
WHAT IS
THIS
FEELING
THAT WELLS
UP
IN MY
HEART...?

THAT
THERE
SHOULD BE
AN END TO
SUFFERING
AND DEATH
IN THIS
WORLD...!

IF ONE
CAN *TRULY*
BELIEVE IN
HAPPINESS...
ONE CAN ONLY
HAVE *THIS*
PRAYER...



"LET THIS
MOMENT LAST ...
FOREVER."



KRAKABOOM

BANNOOM

!?

WASH

YAA
ARGH!

FSC
HA
A

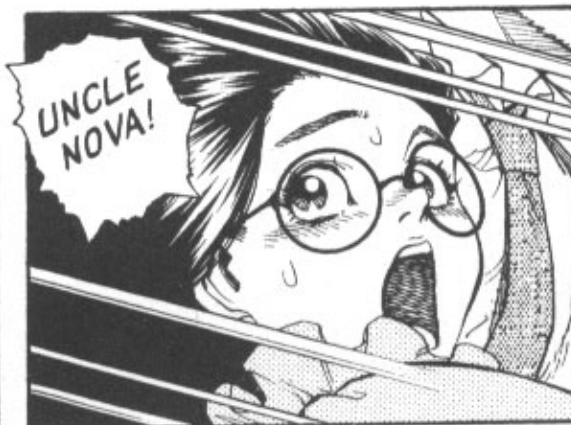


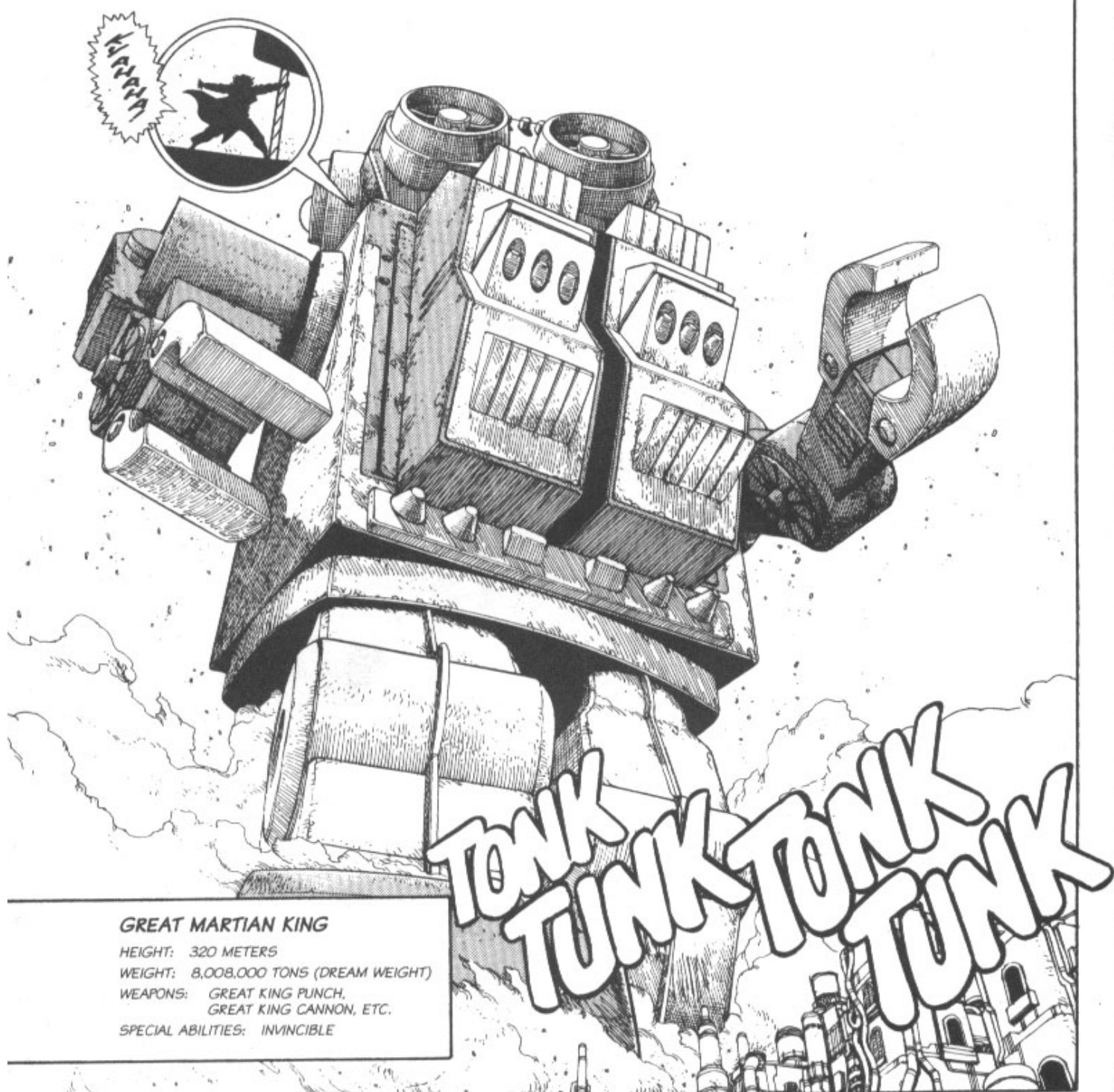


IDO, TAKE
CARE OF
GALLY
FOR ME...



OKAY,
PROFES-
SOR!





GREAT MARTIAN KING

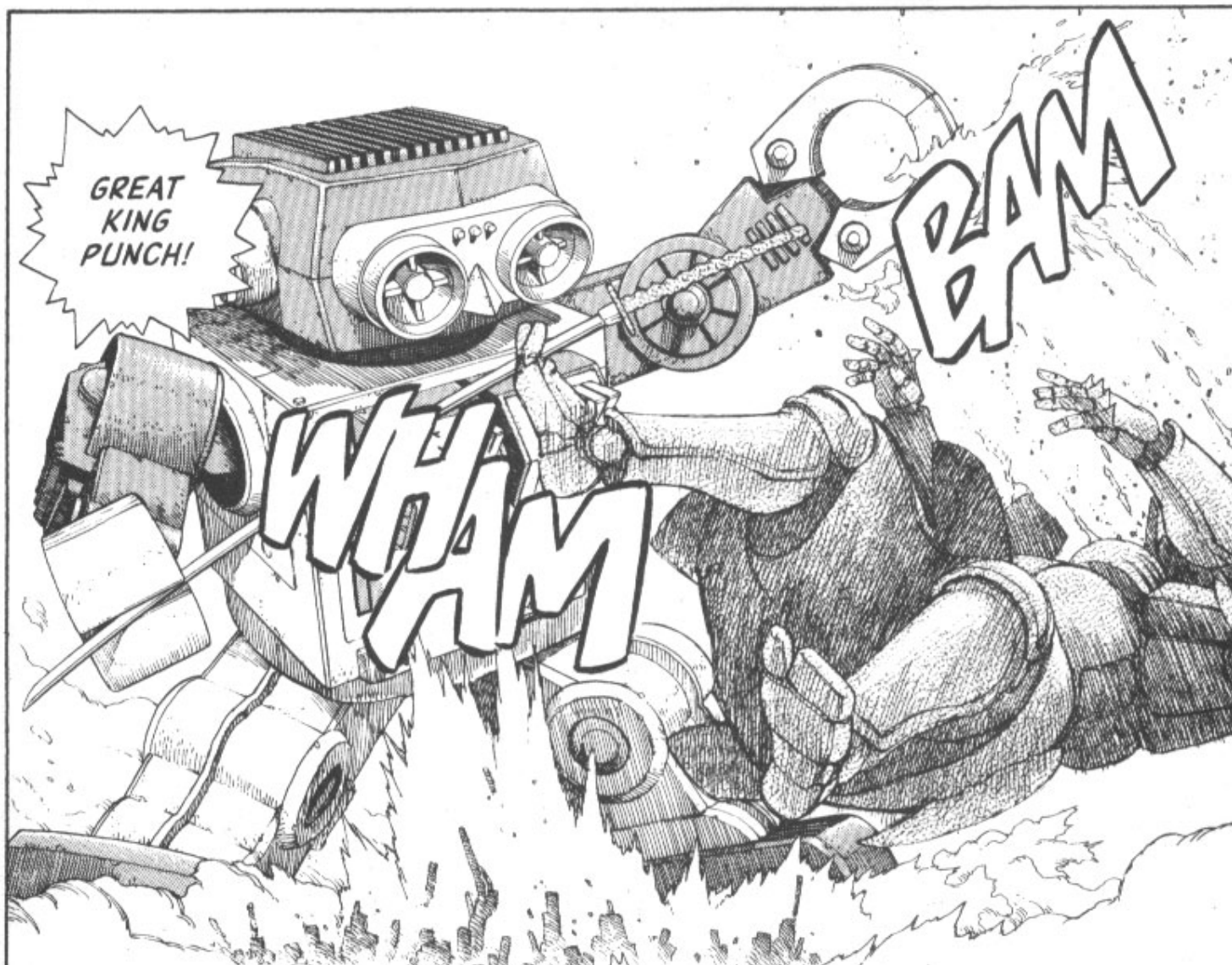
HEIGHT: 320 METERS

WEIGHT: 8,008,000 TONS (DREAM WEIGHT)

WEAPONS: GREAT KING PUNCH,
GREAT KING CANNON, ETC.

SPECIAL ABILITIES: INVINCIBLE





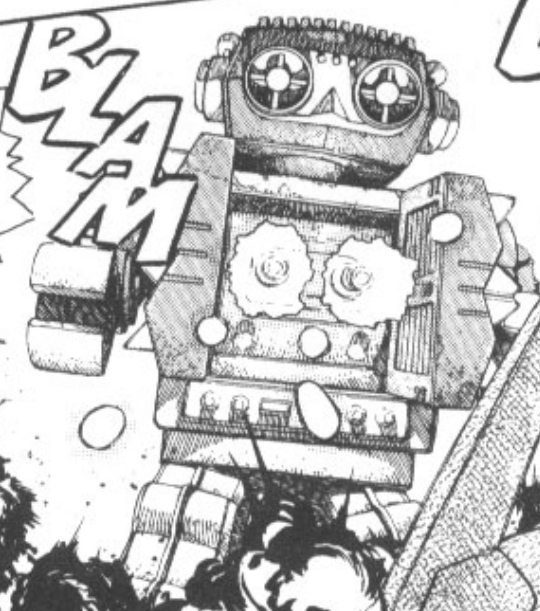


NOW
BECOMES
THE PAST
IN AN
INSTANT --
AND
EVERYONE
WILL
EVENTUALLY
DIE!

DESTINY
TRIUMPHS
OVER HUMAN
KNOWLEDGE
AND GOES
MAD! THAT
IS THE WAY
OF THINGS!

WHESSH

GREAT
KING
CANNON!



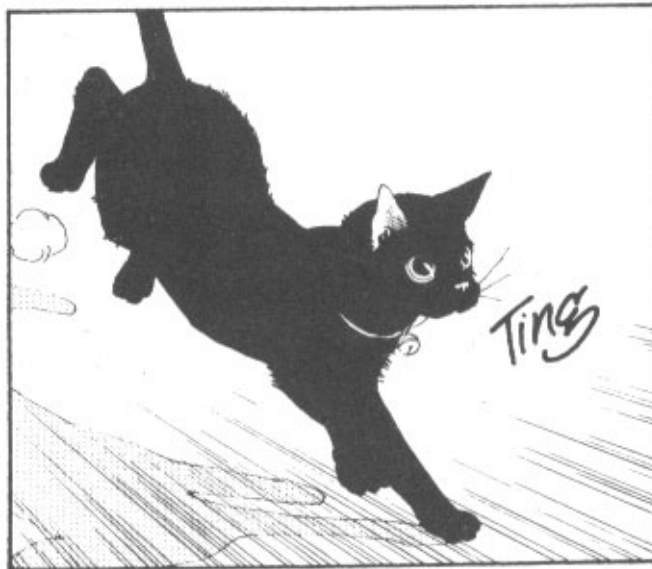
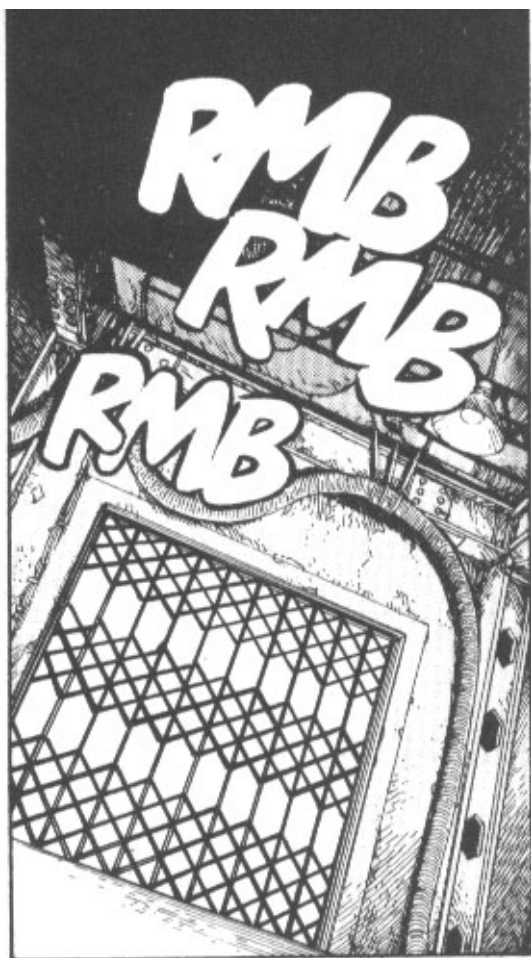
BLAM

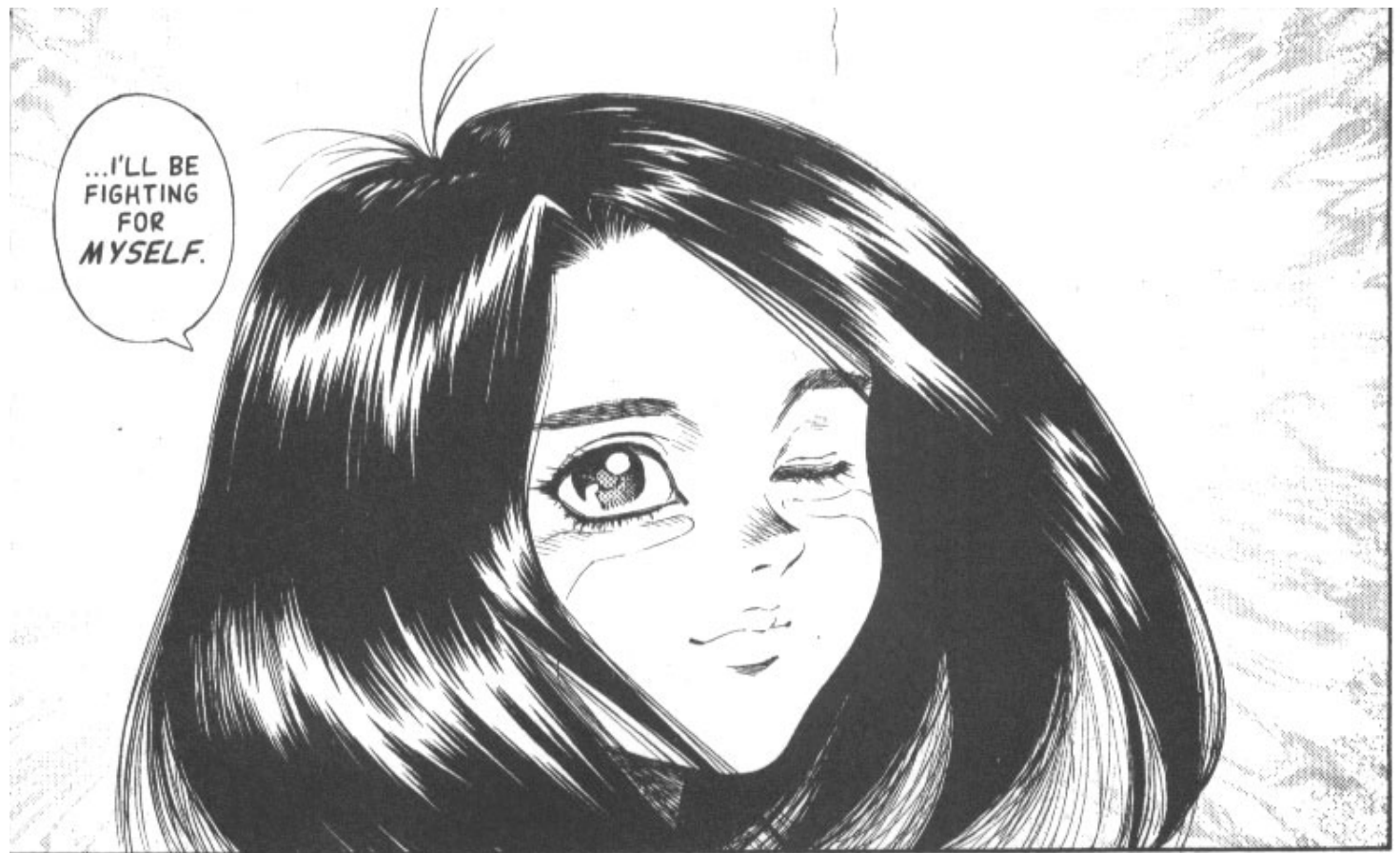
BLAM

I SPIT
UPON
THIS FRAIL,
CRAZED
WORLD!

I SPIT
UPON
THE
SECOND
LAW OF
THERMO-
DYNAMICS
!*

*ACCORDING TO THIS LAW, THE ENTROPY OF THE UNIVERSE CONTINUALLY INCREASES. A HOT CUP OF TEA WILL COOL OVER TIME, WHILE THE REVERSE WILL NEVER HAPPEN. BY EXTRAPOLATION, WE CONCLUDE THAT SPACE WILL EVENTUALLY GROW COLD, REACHING A STATE WHERE NO STARS OR EVEN TIME EXIST.





...I'LL BE
FIGHTING
FOR
MYSELF.



.....

I KNEW
THIS WAS
A DREAM...



...AND
I LET
MYSELF
ENJOY
IT.

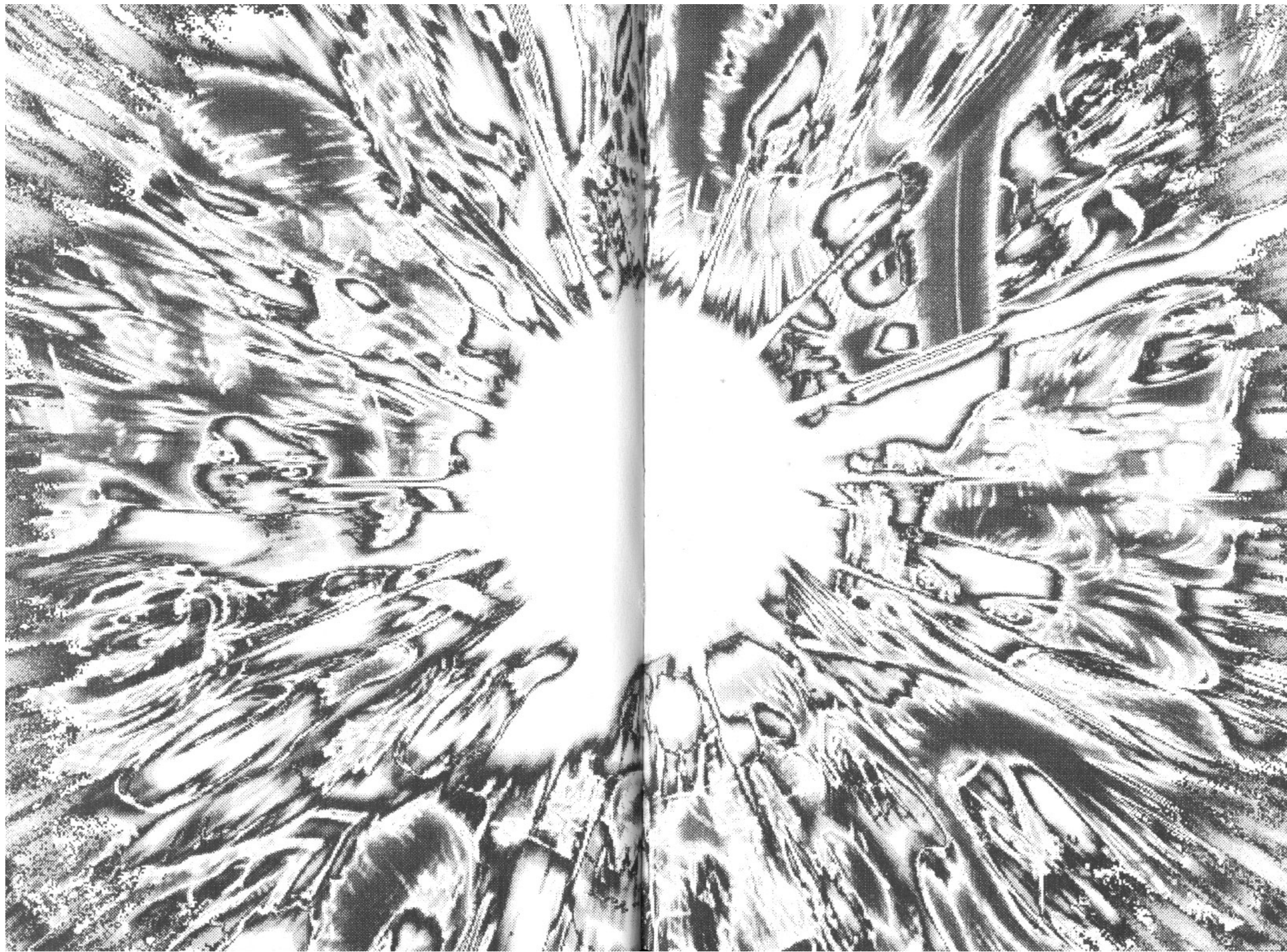
BUT
NOW I
HAVE TO
GO.

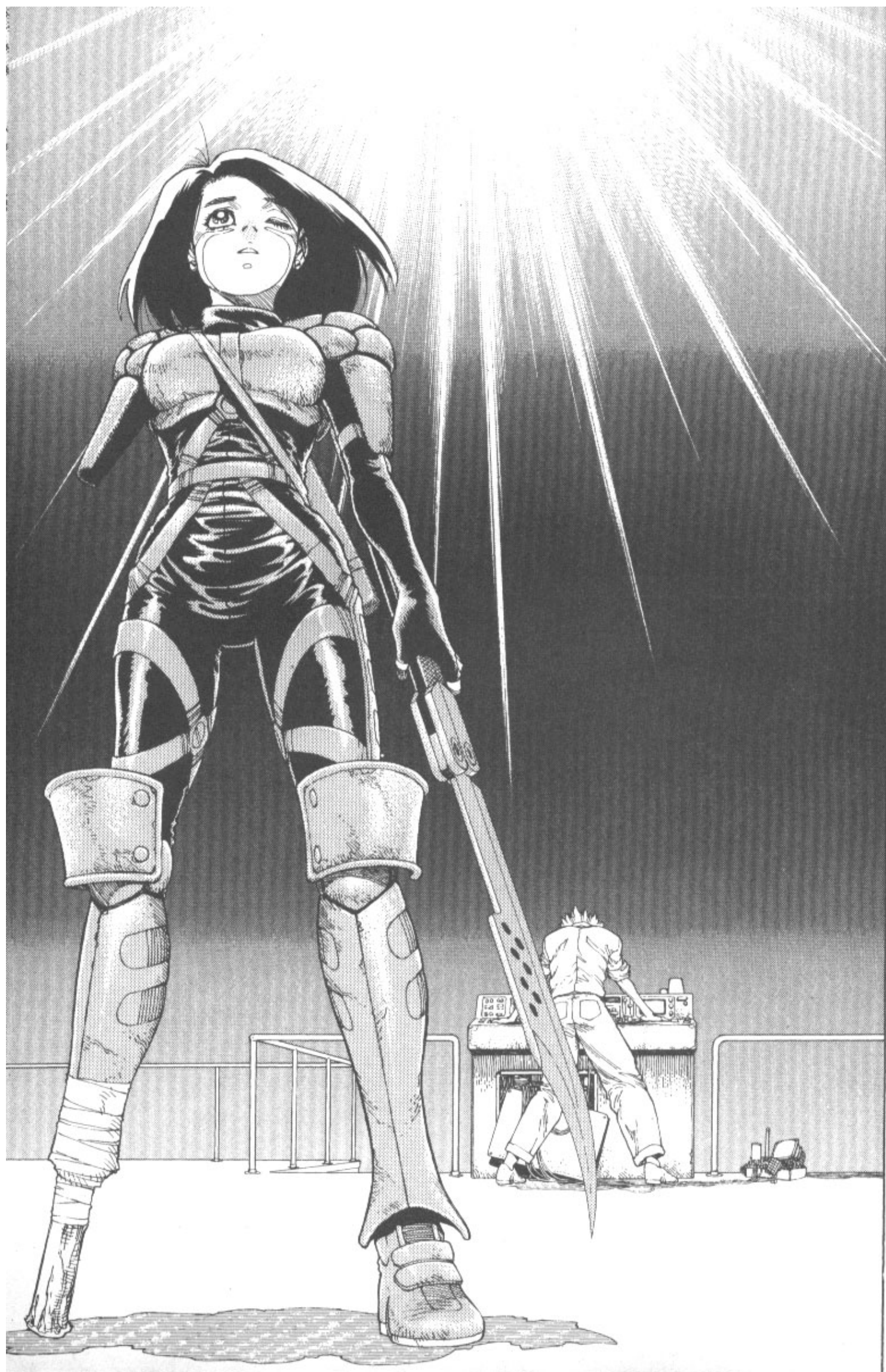


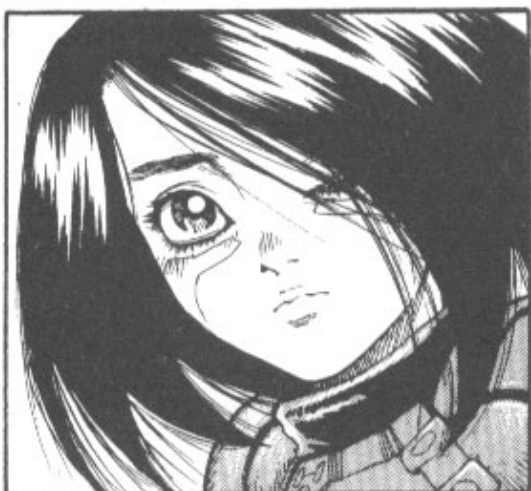
YOU
BE
CAREFUL...

ALITA.





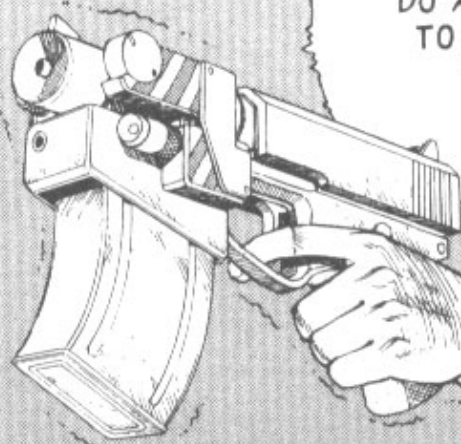




IF THIS
WERE
STILL MY
DREAM...

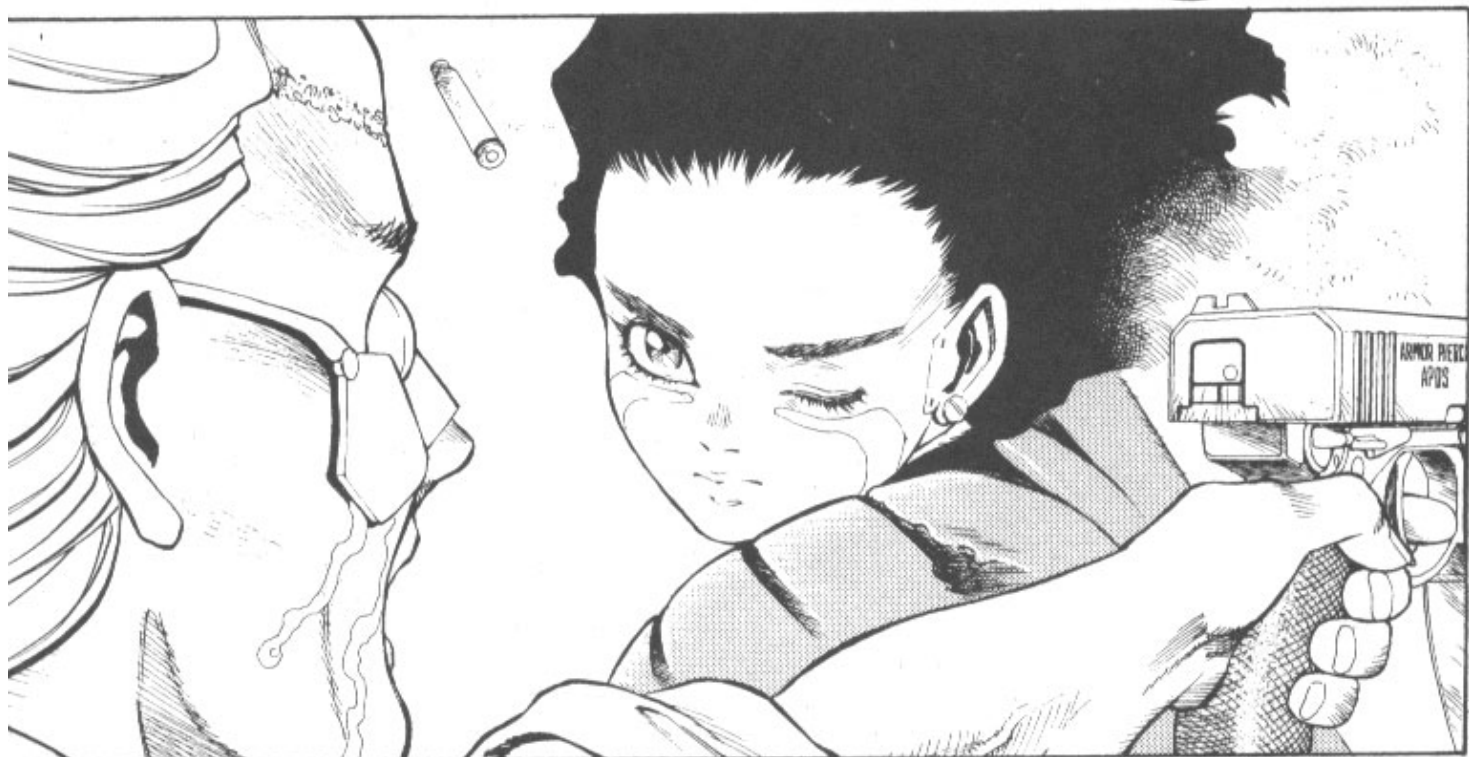
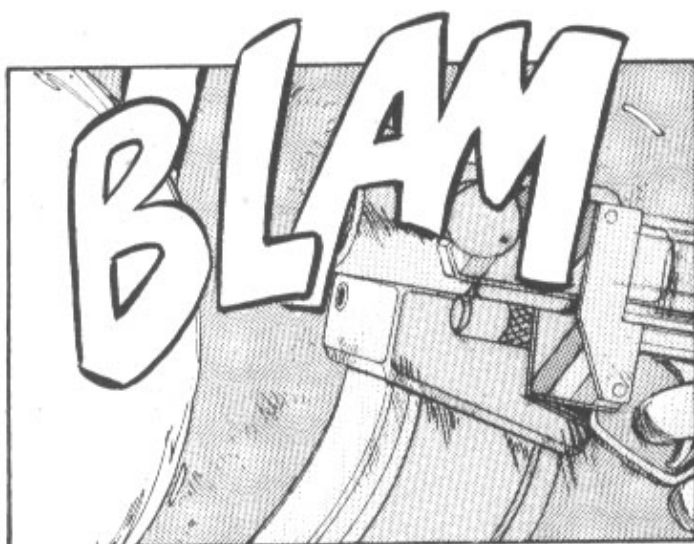


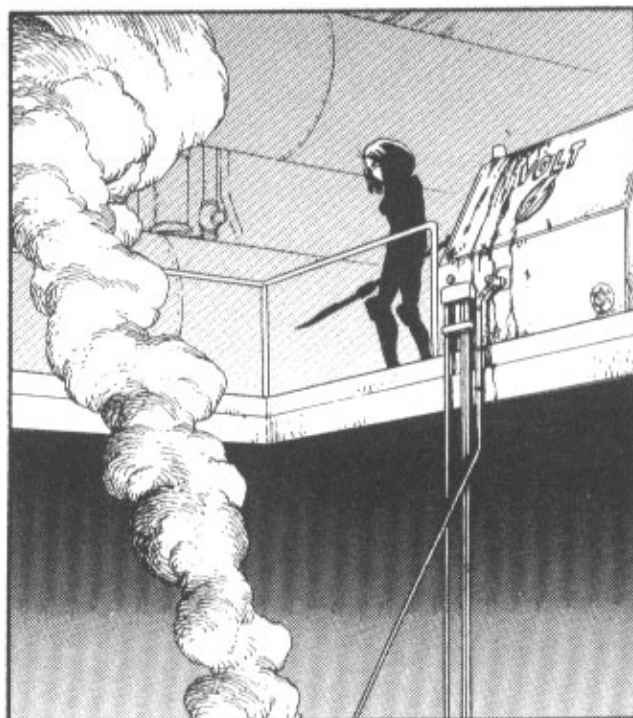
...I WOULD
DO ANYTHING
TO PROTECT
YOU...



...I WOULD
DO ANYTHING
TO PROTECT
YOU...

...I WOULD
DO ANYTHING
TO PROTECT
YOU...

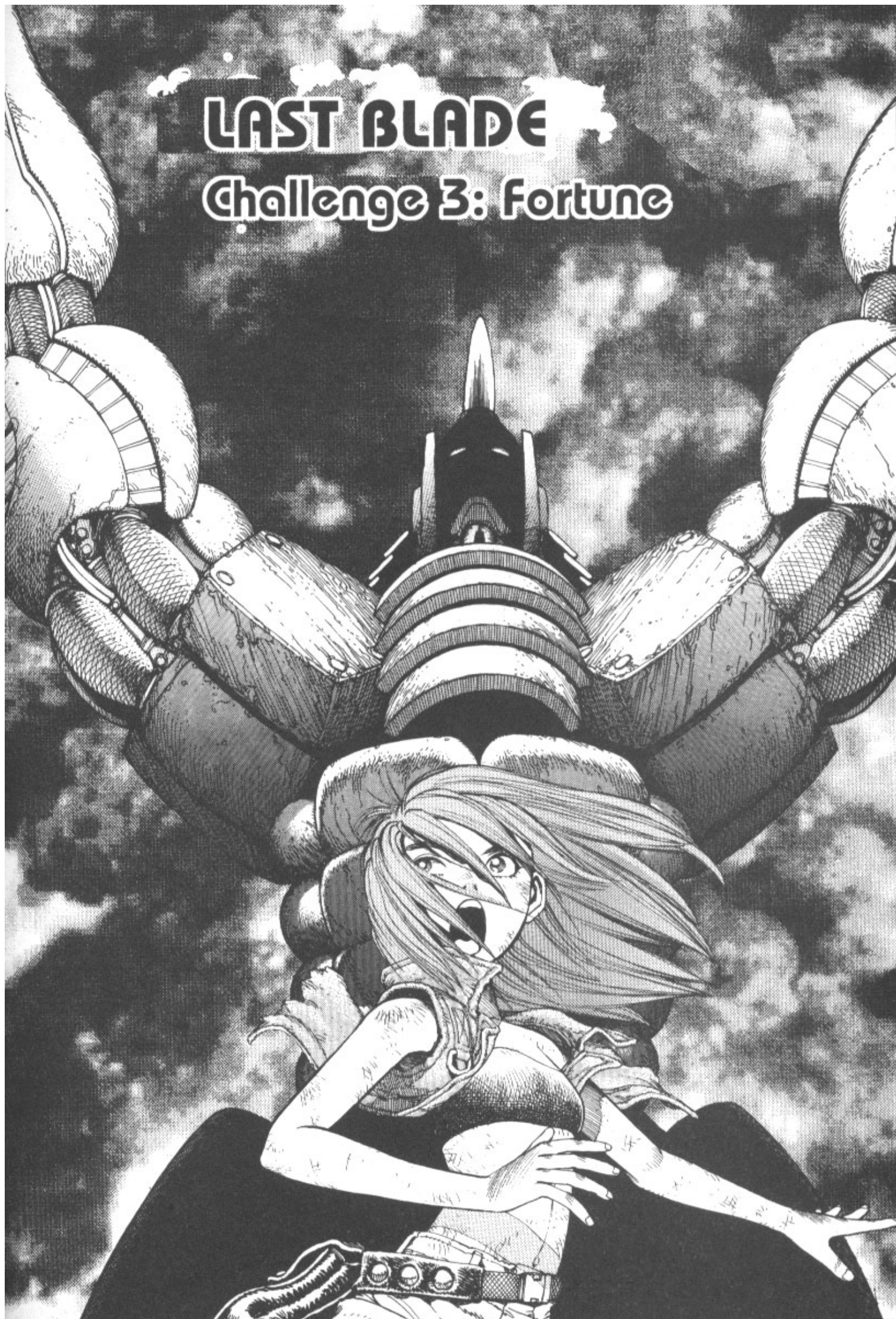


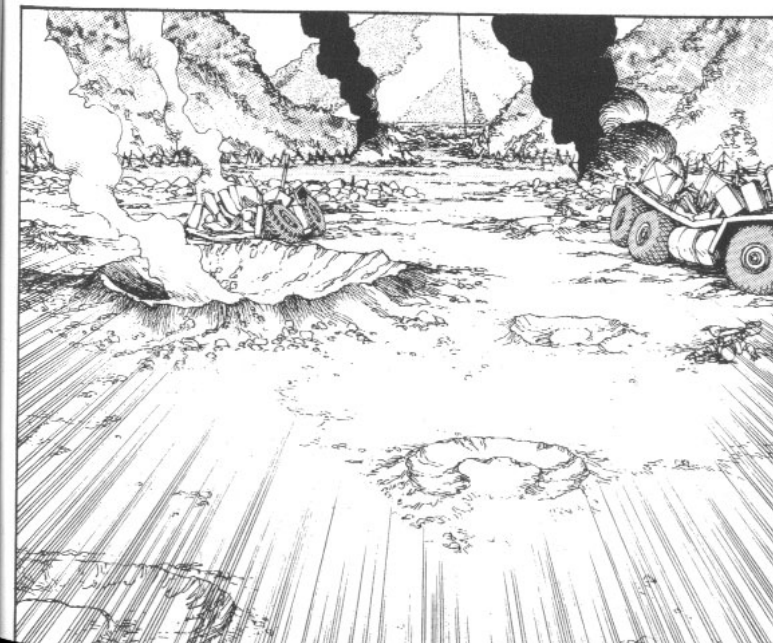
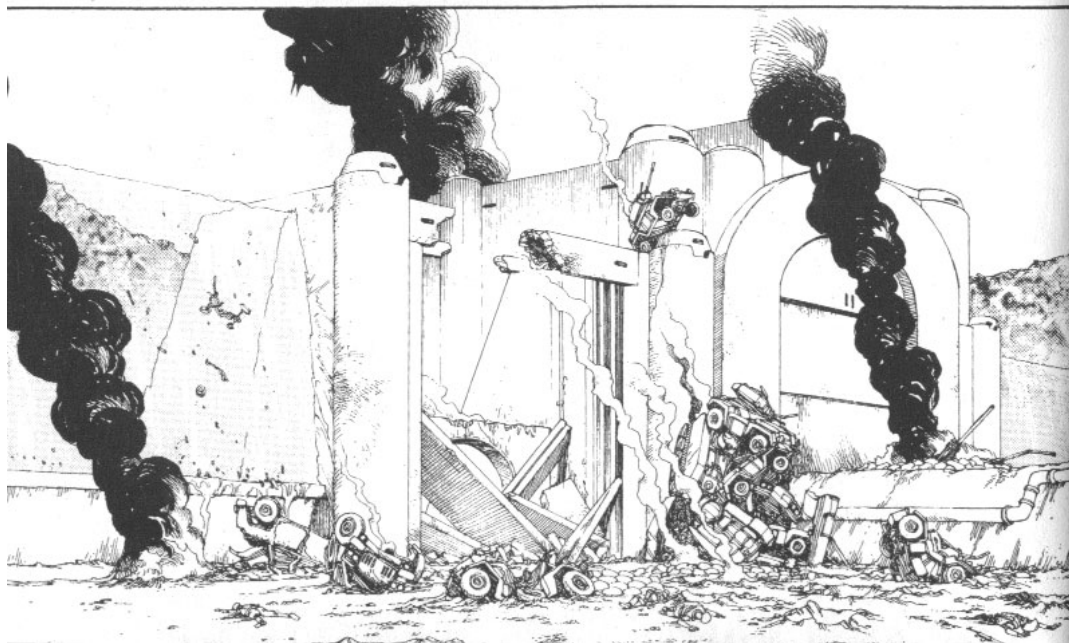
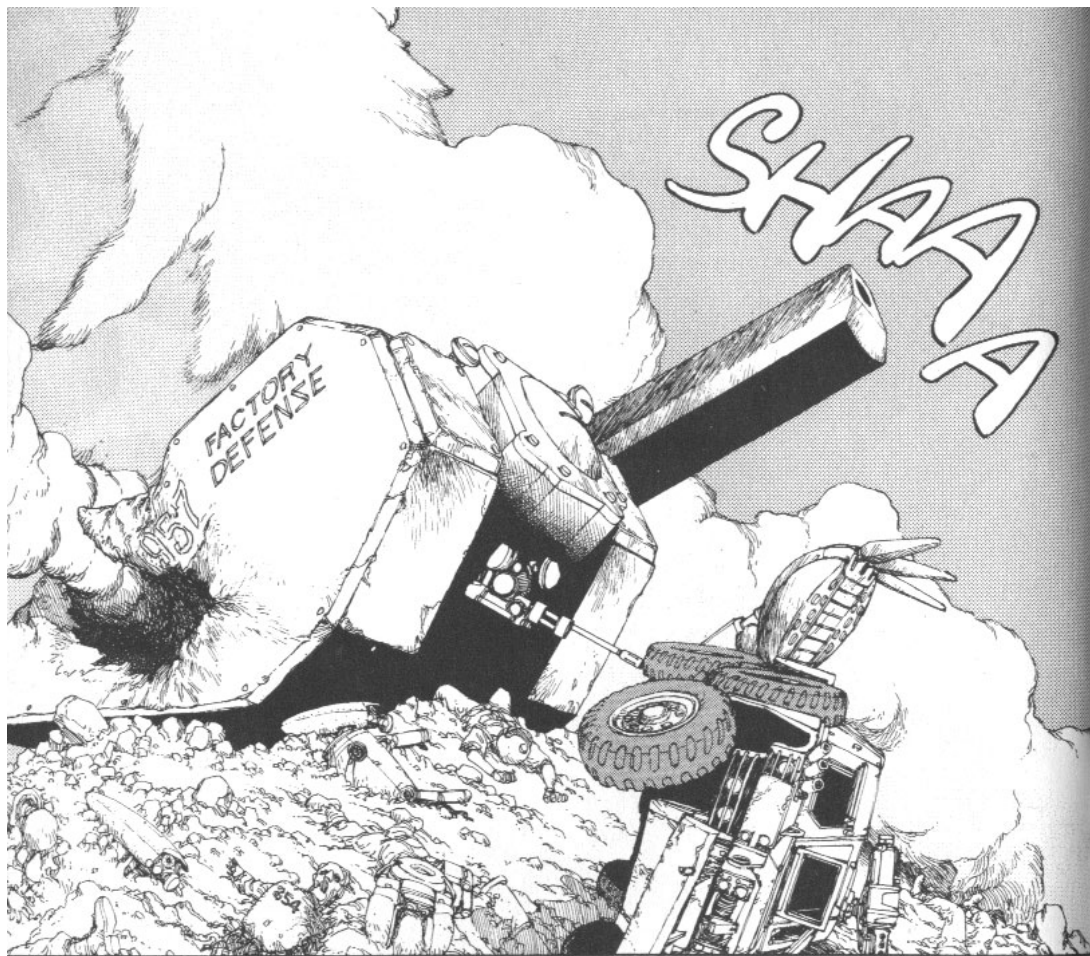




LAST BLADE

Challenge 3: Fortune







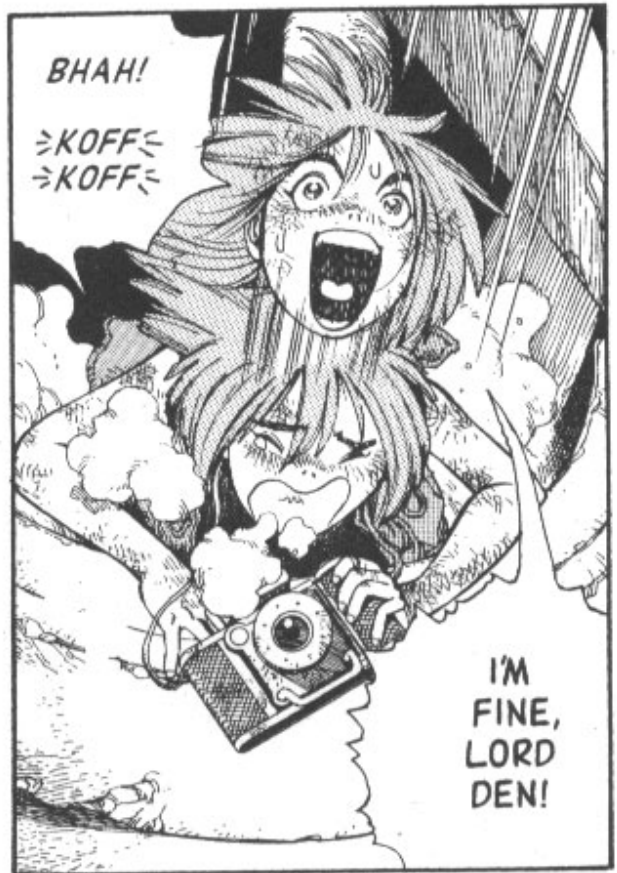




ALL I CAN SEE
ARE MERCENARIES!
WHY HAVE THE MAIN
TIPHAREAN FORCES
STOPPED?



KOYOMI?
ARE YOU
ALIVE?



BHAH!

≧KOFF≦
≧KOFF≦

I'M
FINE,
LORD
DEN!

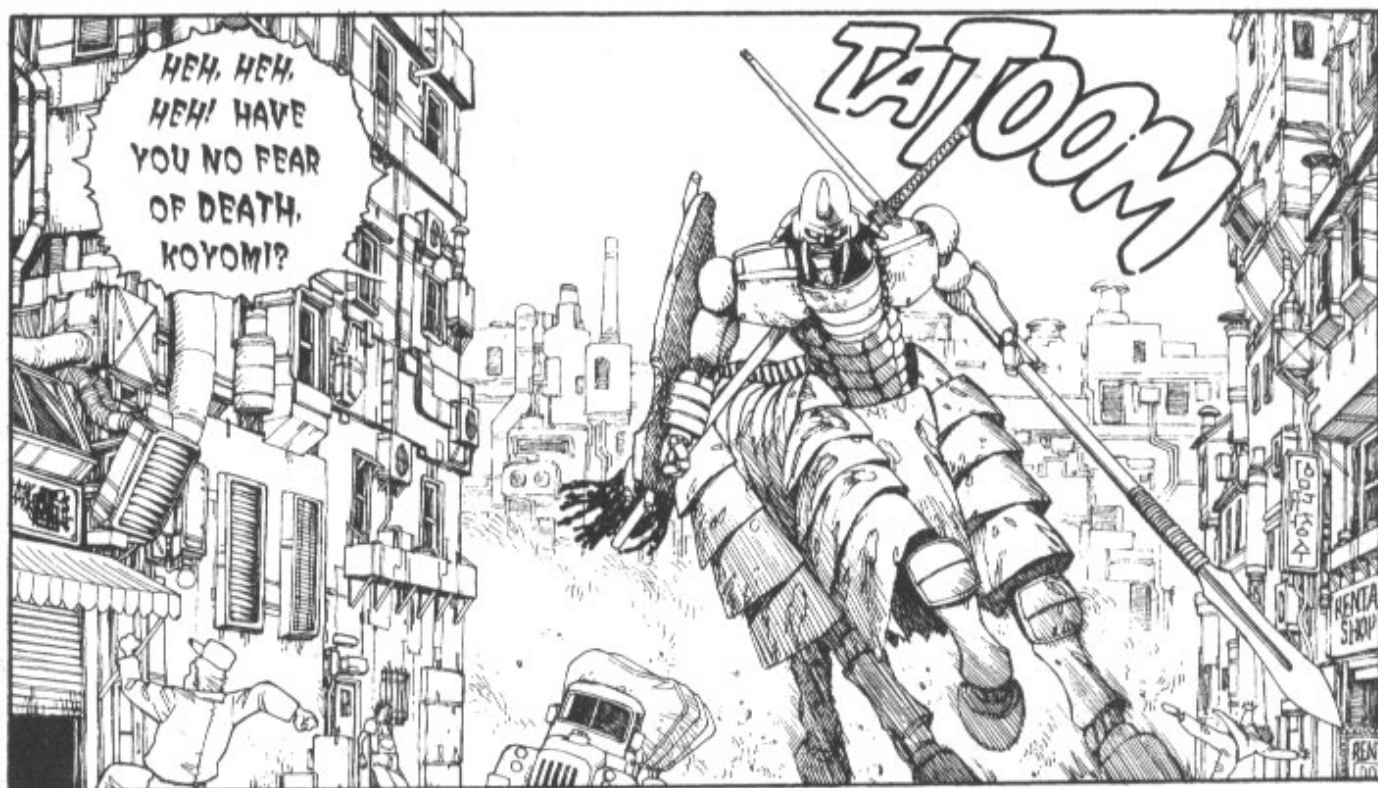


AWWW,
MAN! AND
I TOLD
THEM TO
EVACUATE,
TOO!



IT'S YOUR
OWN FAULT
FOR NOT
LISTENING!
LORD DEN--
STOMP 'EM!

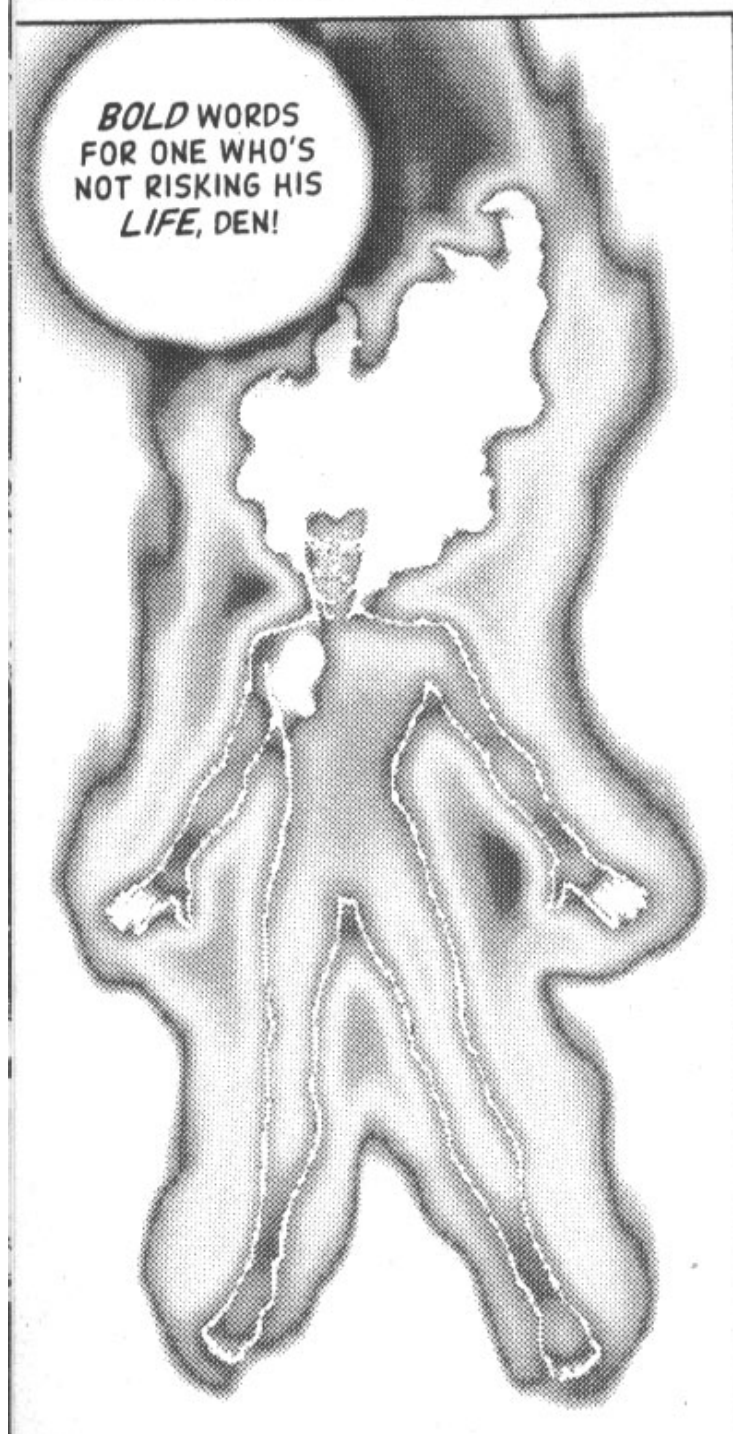






HMM
?

ZZZ
H



**BOLD WORDS
FOR ONE WHO'S
NOT RISKING HIS
LIFE, DEN!**

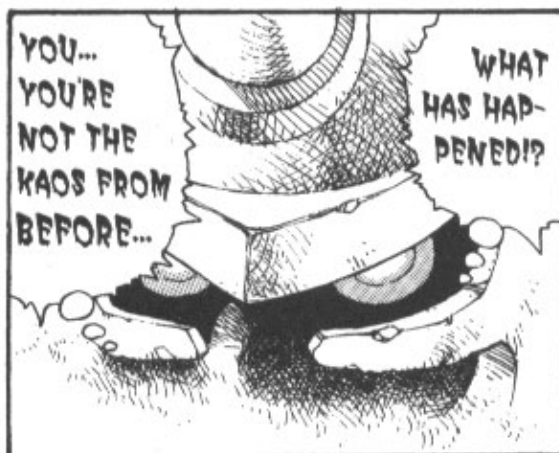


WHY,
YOU--!



?

WHAT'S
THE
MATTER,
LORD
DEN!?



YOU...
YOU'RE
NOT THE
KAOS FROM
BEFORE...

WHAT
HAS HAP-
PENED!?

TERRIFYING,
ISN'T IT --
NOT TO
KNOW
ONESELF?

AFTER
MEETING
ALITA, I'VE
BECOME...
HUMAN.



DEN, YOU'RE
NOTHING BUT
A FIGMENT OF
MY PSYCHE,
SEPARATED
FROM MY
BODY!

YOU, WHO HAVE
NO LIFE OF YOUR
OWN, CONTINUE TO
WREAK DEATH UPON
OTHERS! DO YOU
THINK A *MAN* WOULD
TOLERATE THAT!?



STOP
FIGHTING,
RELEASE
KOYOMI, AND
RETURN TO
MY BODY!



FIGMENT!?
FIGMENT!?



YOU DARE
CALL ME A
FIGMENT?!



EEEEK!
!



WHAT DO
YOU KNOW
OF ME?!



I AM THE
CHILD
OF YOUR
UNCONTROL-
LABLE
RAGE...



...RAGE THAT
WOULD HAVE
DESTROYED
YOU!

?!

GOK



WAAAAAH!
IT
HURRRRTS!

RETURNED
TO KAOS



TO SAVE YOUR
PIDDLING BODY...
TO PROTECT
THE PEOPLE
AROUND YOU--
I WAS FORCED
INTO HIDING.

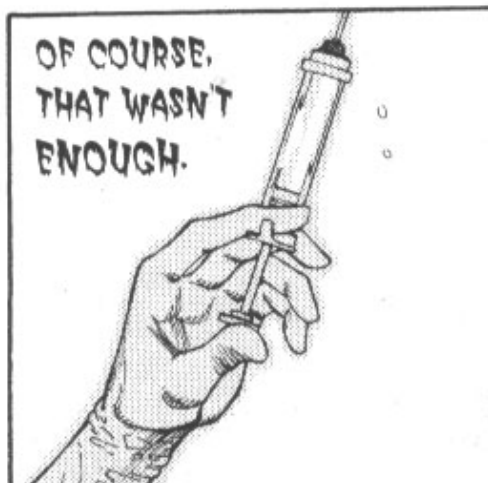


BUT IN MY FIFTEENTH
OR SIXTEENTH YEAR,
SOMETHING CAUSED
ME TO LOSE
CONTROL--NEARLY
KILLING NOVA AND
HIS ASSISTANT!

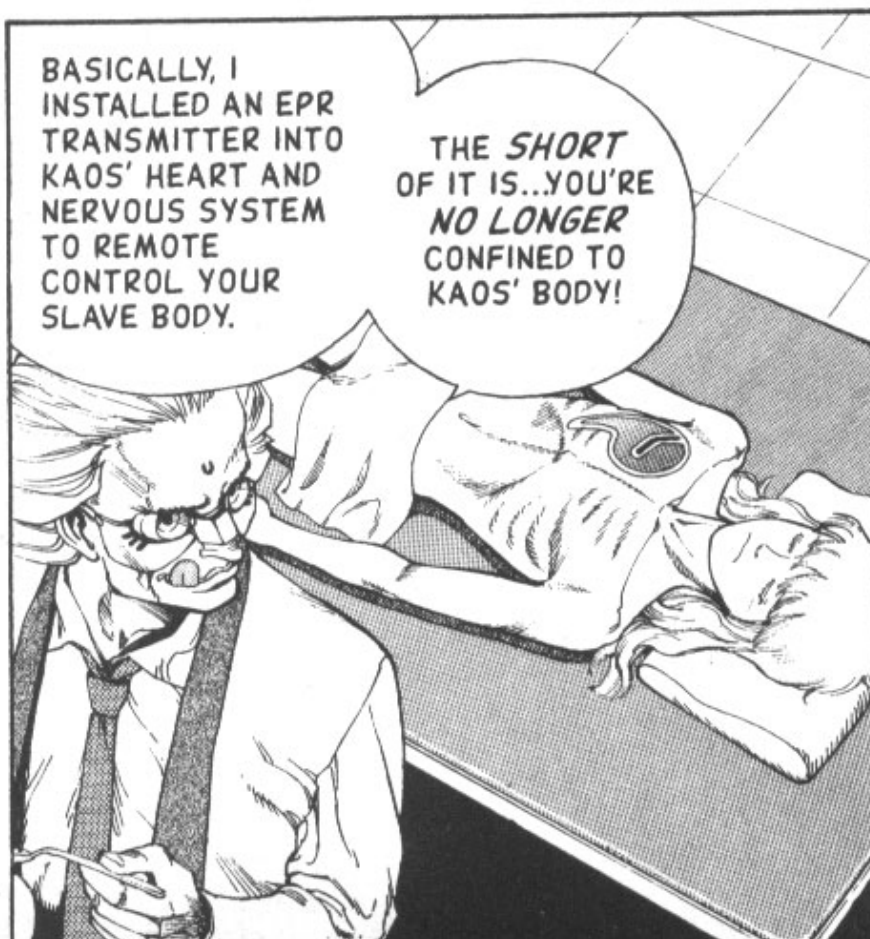
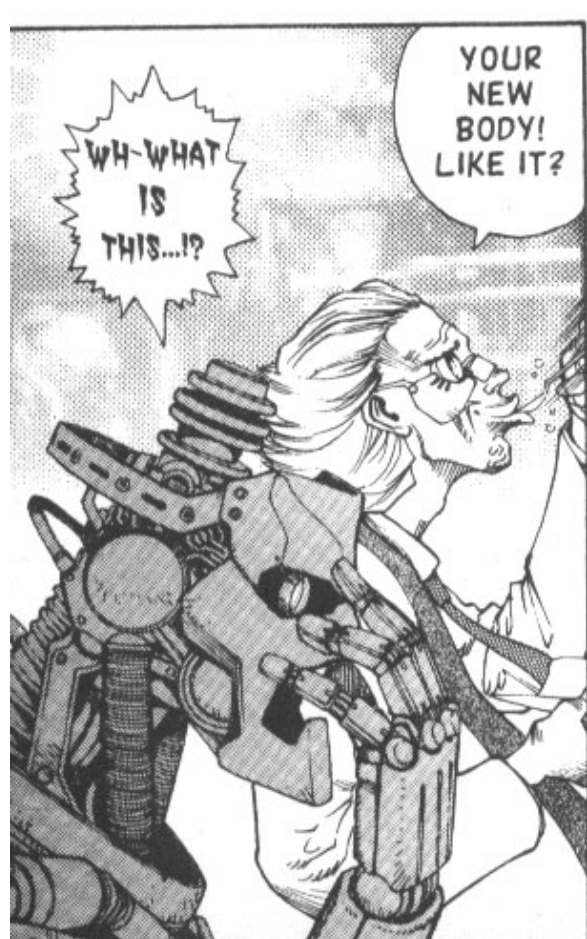


Y-YOU'RE
NOT
KAOS, ARE
YOU?

THUS NOVA
DISCOVERED MY
EXISTENCE.



OF COURSE,
THAT WASN'T
ENOUGH.



I JUST LOVE
PEOPLE WITH
YOUR LEVEL OF
WELL--*PSYCHO-*
LOGICAL
CAPACITY.

THE QUESTION
IS, WILL IT
CAUSE YOUR
PSYCHE TO
COLLAPSE
BENEATH ITS
OWN WEIGHT?
...HEH, HEH,
HEH...

WE'LL
SEE! NOW,
GO
FOLLOW
YOUR
HEART'S
DESIRES...



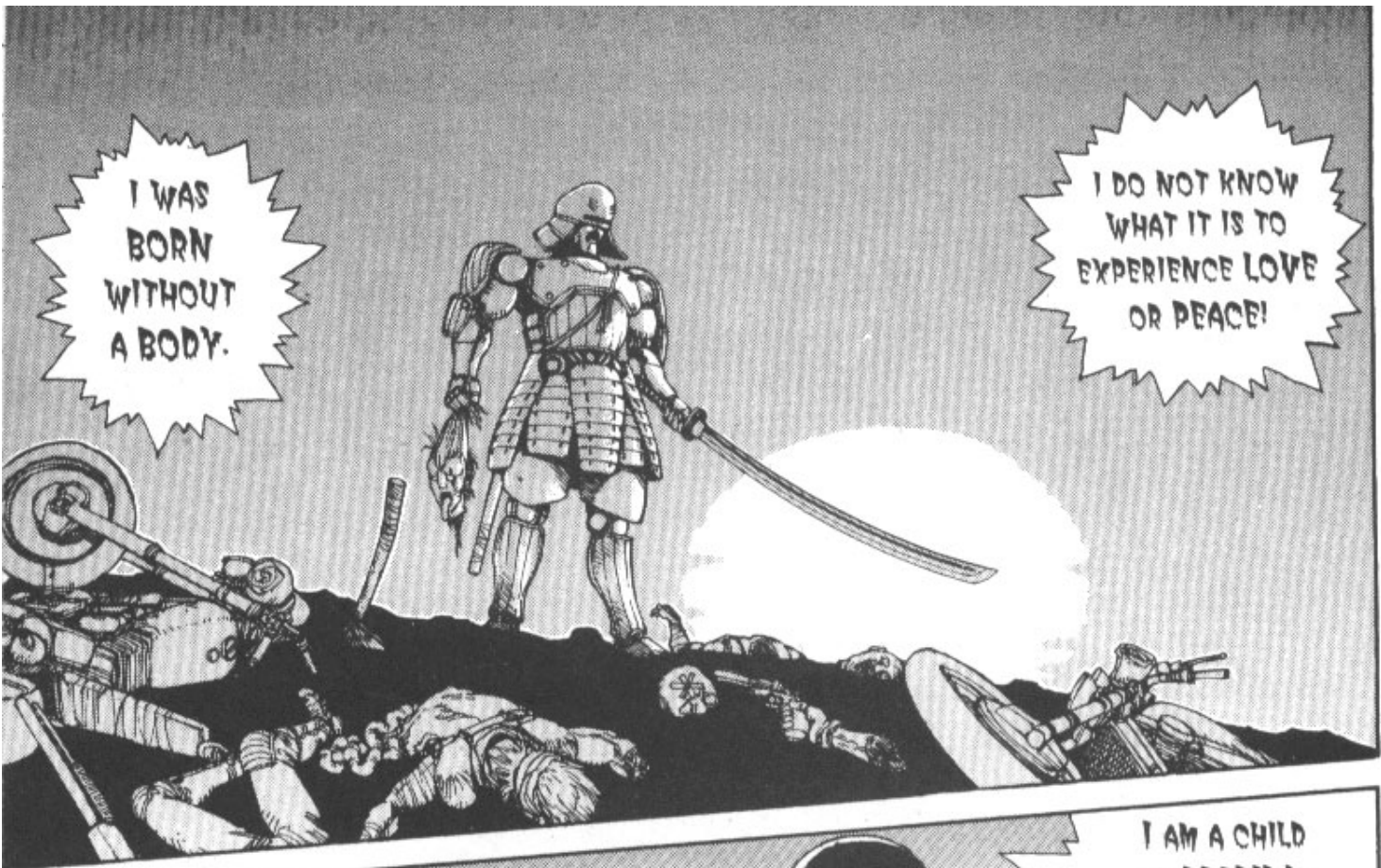
AND SO I WANDERED
THE BADLANDS.
DISCOVERING MYSELF
AS I TRAINED IN
THE WAYS OF
THE WARRIOR.



I FEEL RAGE.
THEREFORE
I AM!

UNQUENCHABLE.
UNRELENTING...
DESPITE ALL
MY EFFORTS TO
CONTROL IT!
WHERE DOES MY
MADNESS COME
FROM!?





I WAS
BORN
WITHOUT
A BODY.

I DO NOT KNOW
WHAT IT IS TO
EXPERIENCE LOVE
OR PEACE!

NO!



I AM A CHILD
OF DESTINY.
SUMMONED BY
THE ANGERED SPIRITS
OF EARTH!

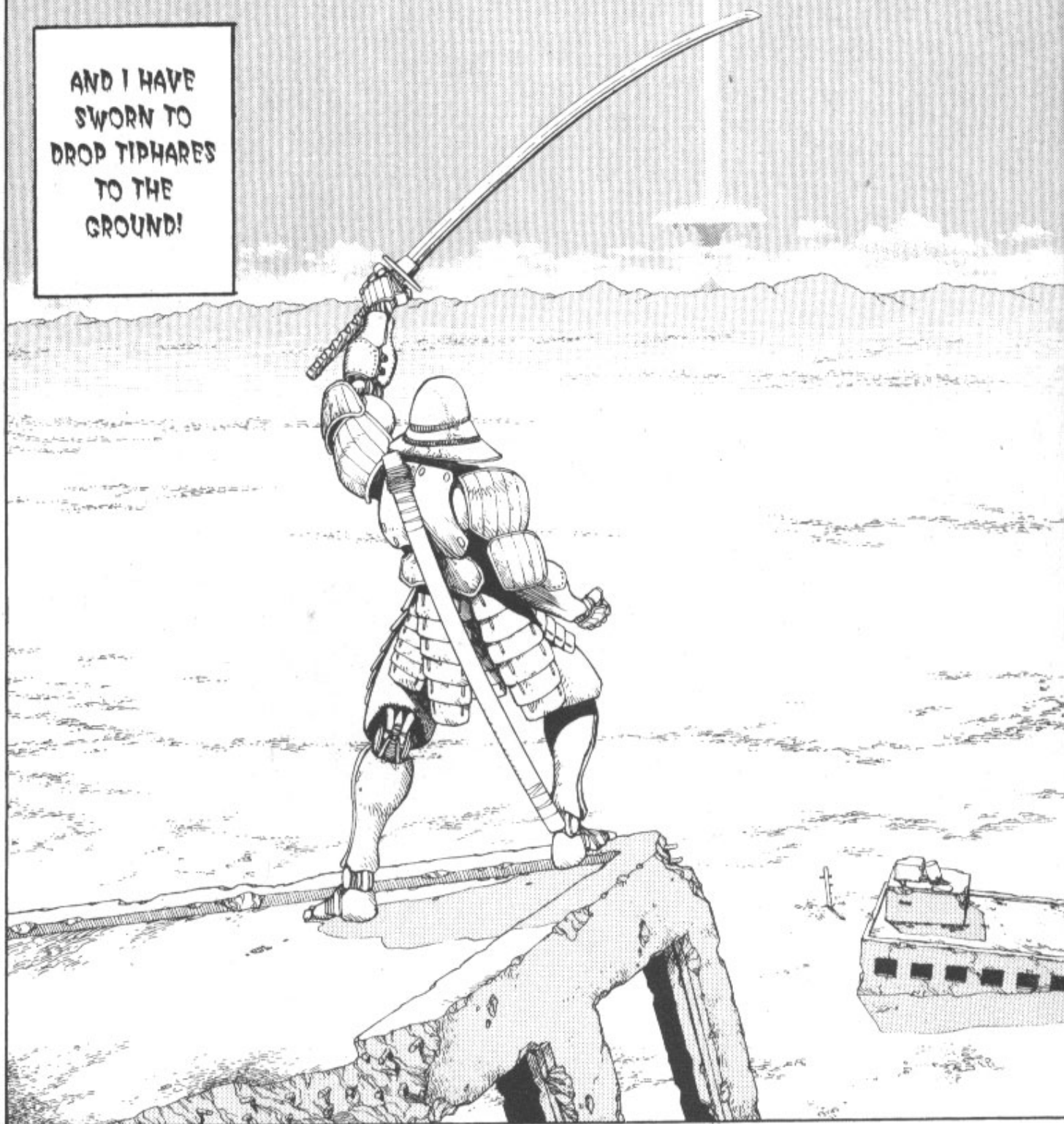
ONLY THIS BODY
IS BIG ENOUGH TO
CONTAIN THE ANGER
WITHIN ME!



I NEED A VESSEL
SUITED TO MY ANGER.
AN UNDYING BODY OF
STEEL...TO GOVERN THIS
PARCHED WORLD!

I
KNOW MY
PURPOSE
!

AND I HAVE
SWORN TO
DROP TIPHARES
TO THE
GROUND!



BUT YOU
FAILED...

GIVE UP!
ADMIT
YOUR
DEFEAT!

I HAVEN'T
BEEN
DEFEATED
YET!



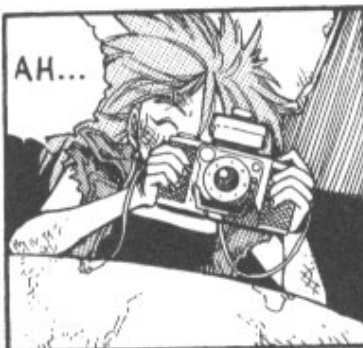
RMTIM
RMTIM



W-
WAIT...!
YOU
CAN'T!

SHFL

SHFL



AH...



P-PLEASE...
GIVE ME MY
DAUGHTER...
KOYOMI...BACK
TO ME!



OLD
MAN!



RMTIM

SHAM



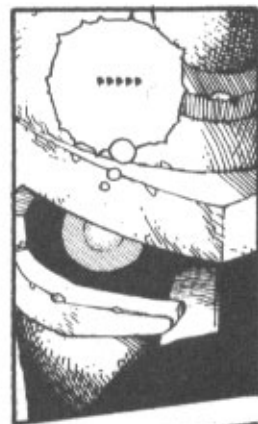
YOU STUPID
OLD BOOZER!
WHAT ARE
YOU DOING
HERE!?



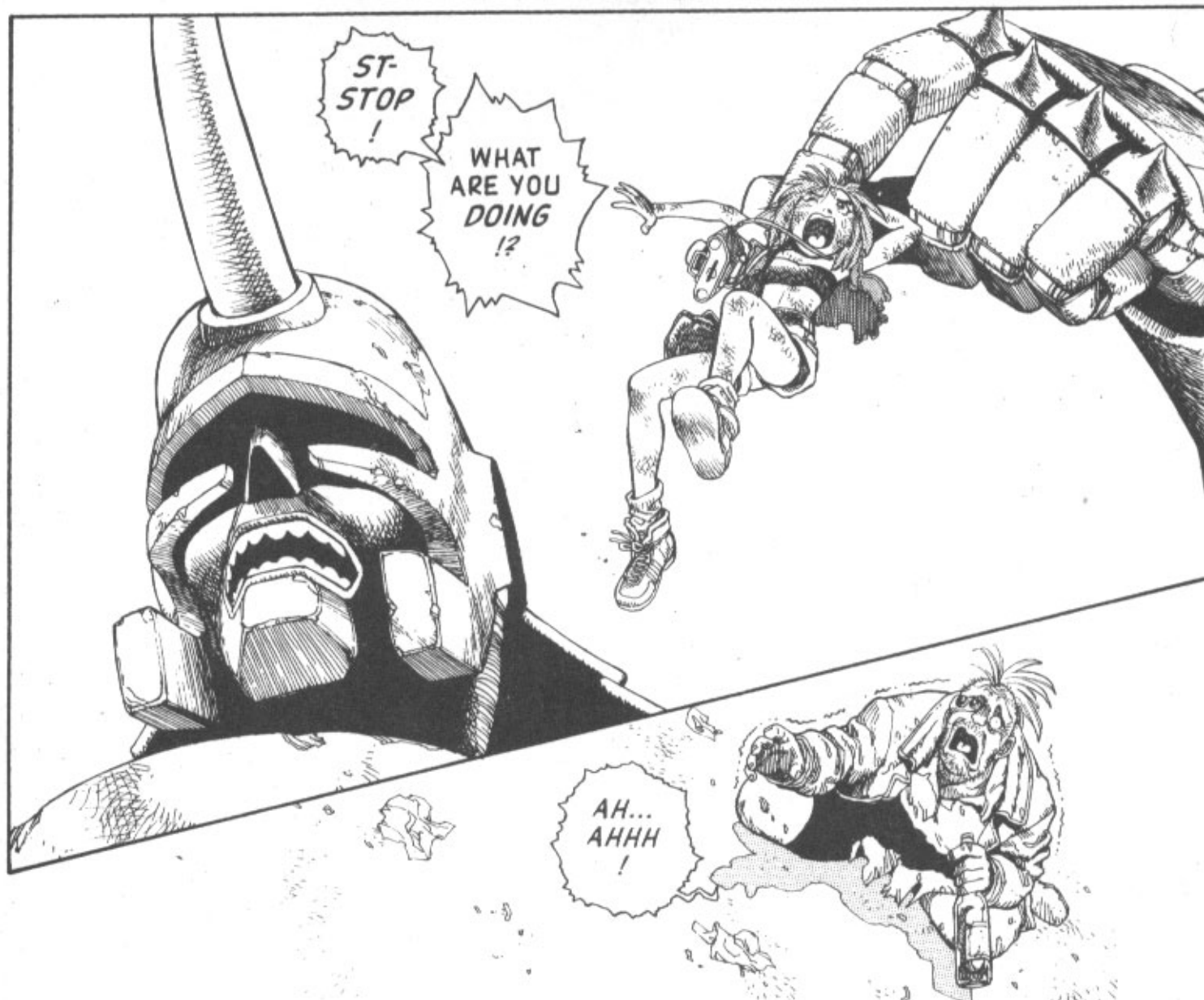
PLEASE--!
MY
DAUGHTER--!



SHUT UP AND
DIE! STEP ON
HIM, MASTER
DEN!



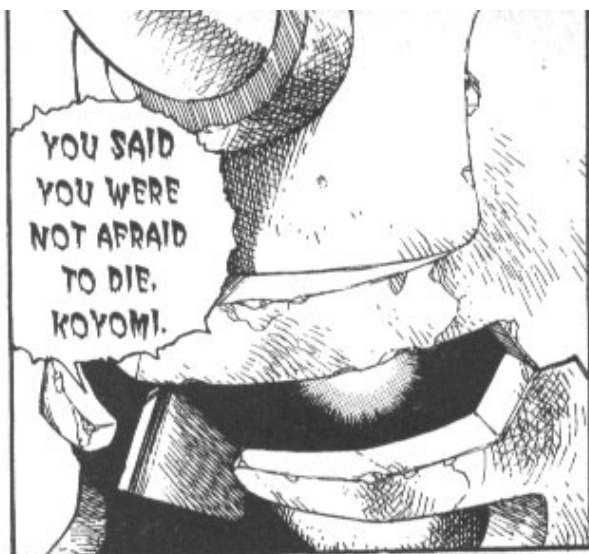
GMP



ST-
STOP
!

WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING
!?

AH...
AHHH
!



YOU SAID
YOU WERE
NOT AFRAID
TO DIE.
KOYOMI.



MASTER
DEN!
WHY!?



KOYOMI
!



DEN--
DON'T DO
IT!

IF I AM
JUST A FIGMENT
AS YOU SAY, THEN
STOP ME!



ERGH...
!



NOOO!
I DON'T
WANNA
DIE!



PLEASE!
I'M NOT
READY!



KYAAA...

...AA...

...AAH!



SPLAM

NNGH!

KRIK
KREK

KURK
KRAK



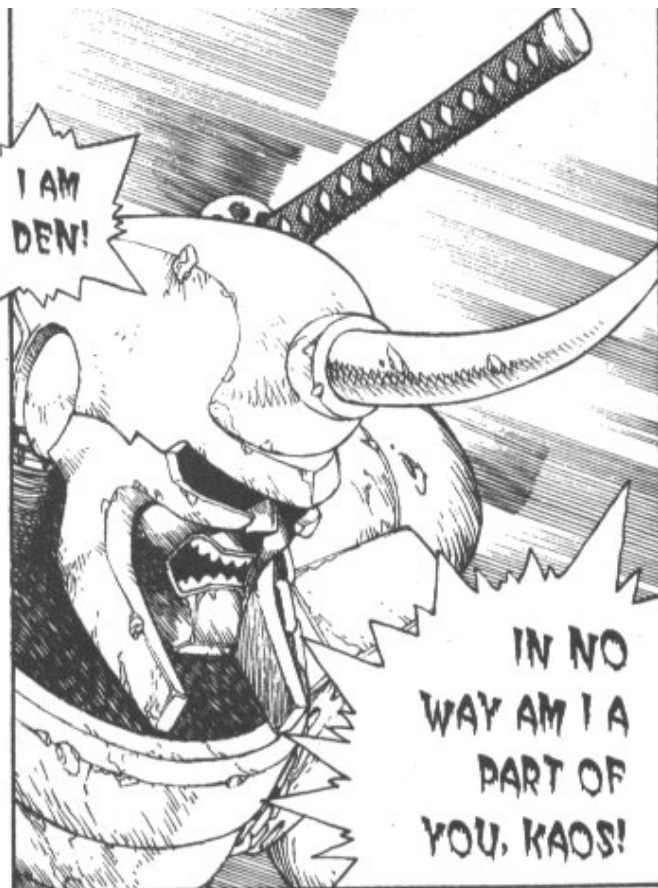
K-KOYOMI...
YOU...ALL
RIGHT!?

AH...



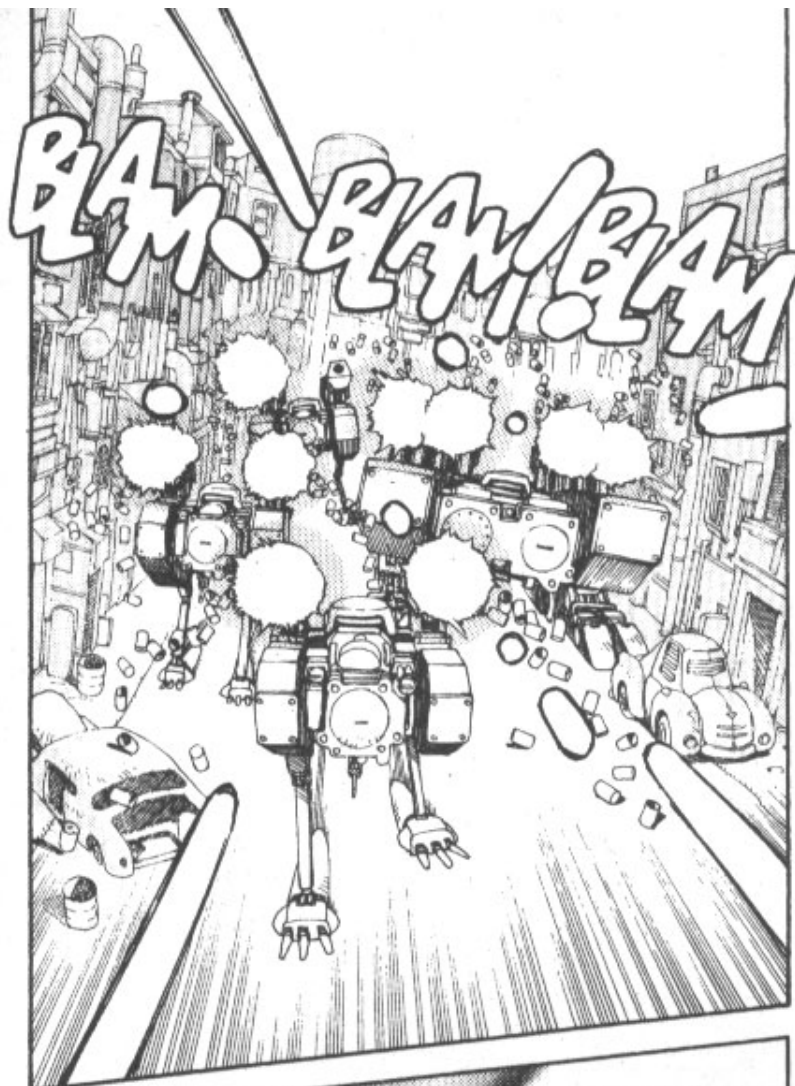
P-
POP...
?



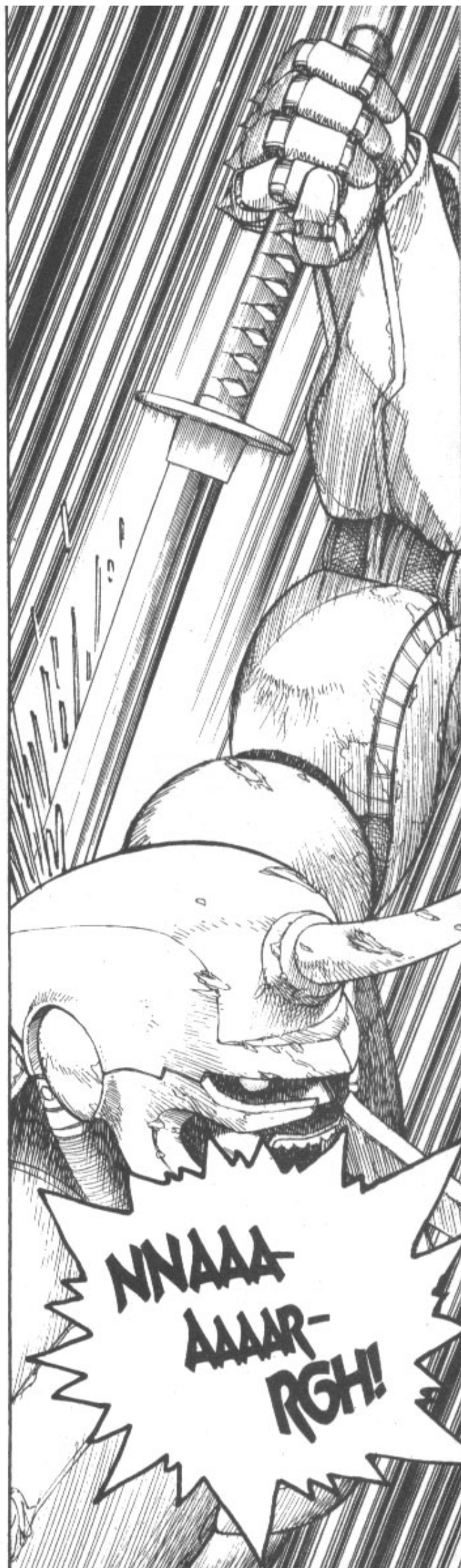
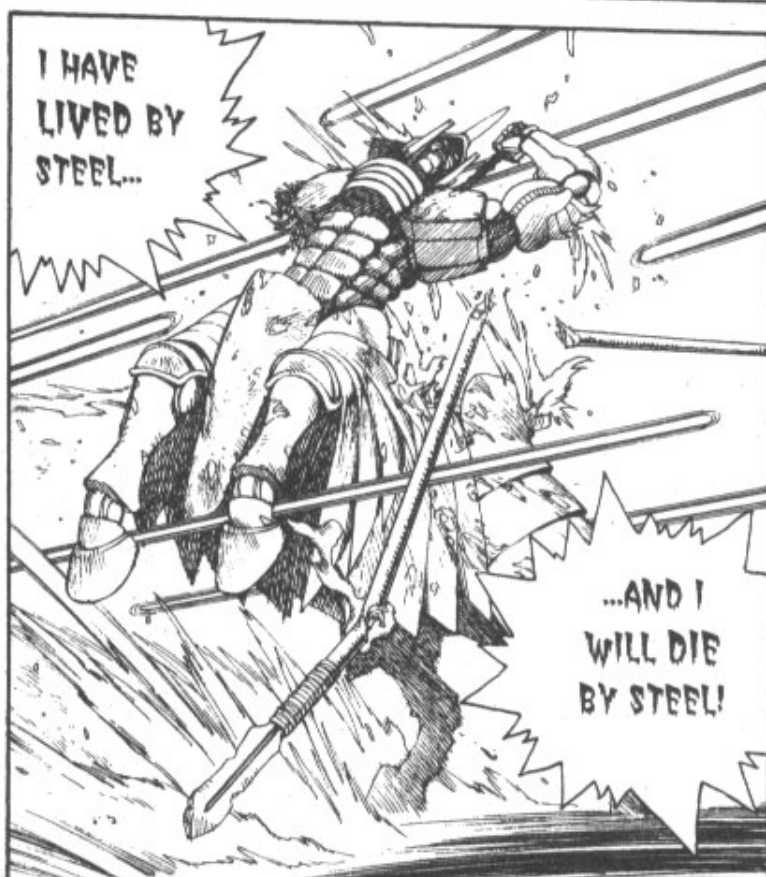


IN NO
WAY AM I A
PART OF
YOU, KAOS!





THE DEFENSE
SYSTEM! IT
FROZE UP WHEN
THE G.I.B. BLEW--
BUT IT MUST
HAVE BEEN
RESTORED!



Sors salutis

Fate opposes me

et virtutis

in vitality

michi nunc contraria,

and morality,

est affectus

forced ever onward,

et defectus

burdened,

semper in angaria.

always in shackles.

Hac in hora

So this very moment,

sine mora

without tarrying,

corde pulsum tangite;

pluck the quivering strings.

quod per sortem

Because Fate

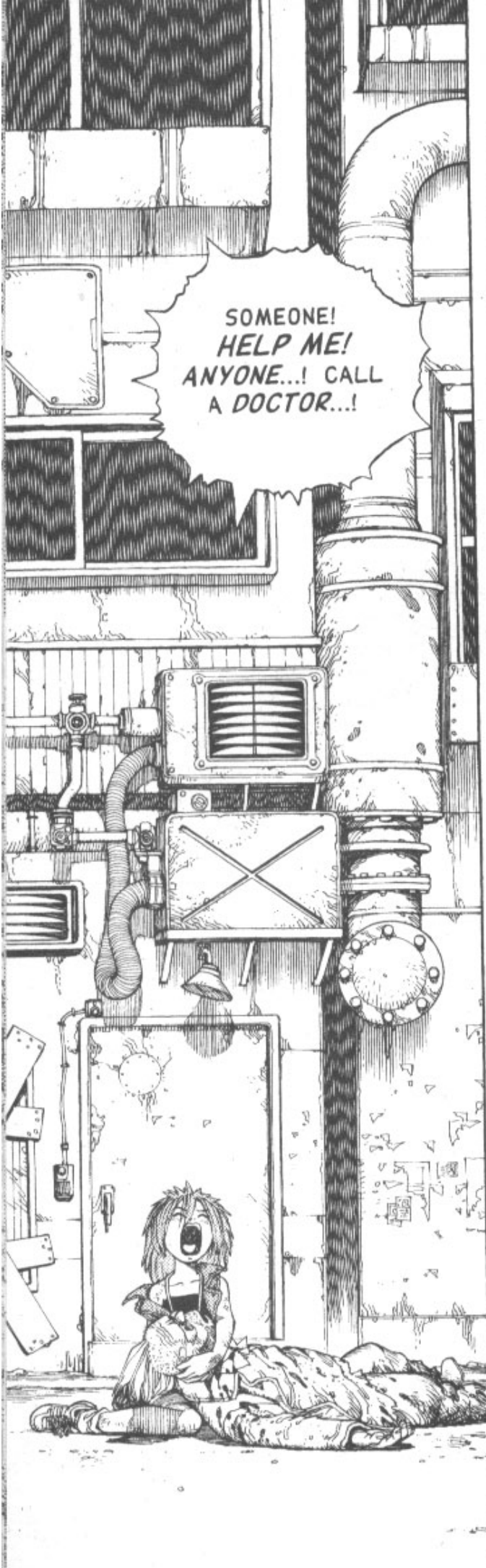
sternit fortem,

punishes the one who plays,

mecum omnes plangite!

all lament with me!

CARMINA BURANA
From a 13th Century
Benedictine Manuscript



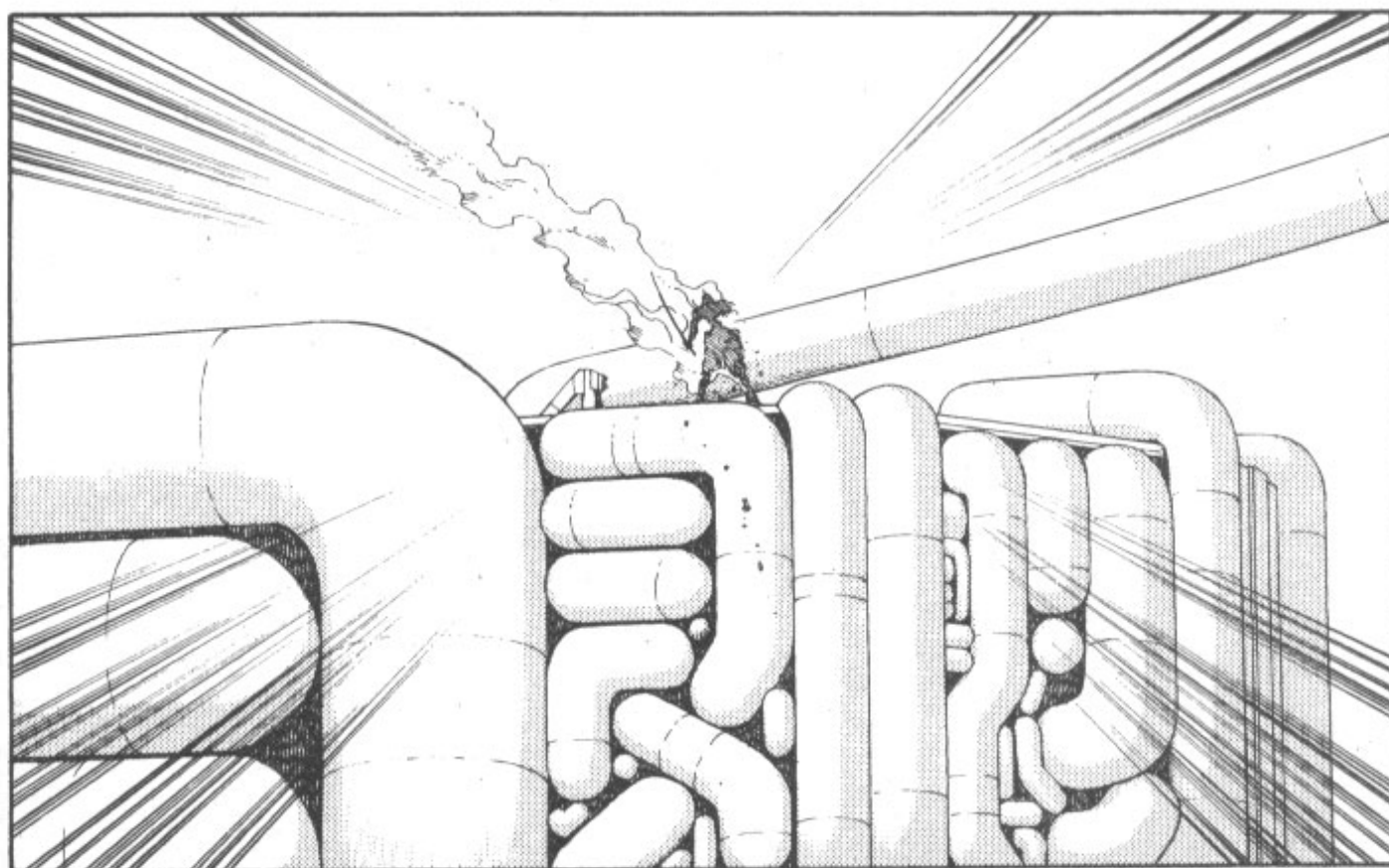
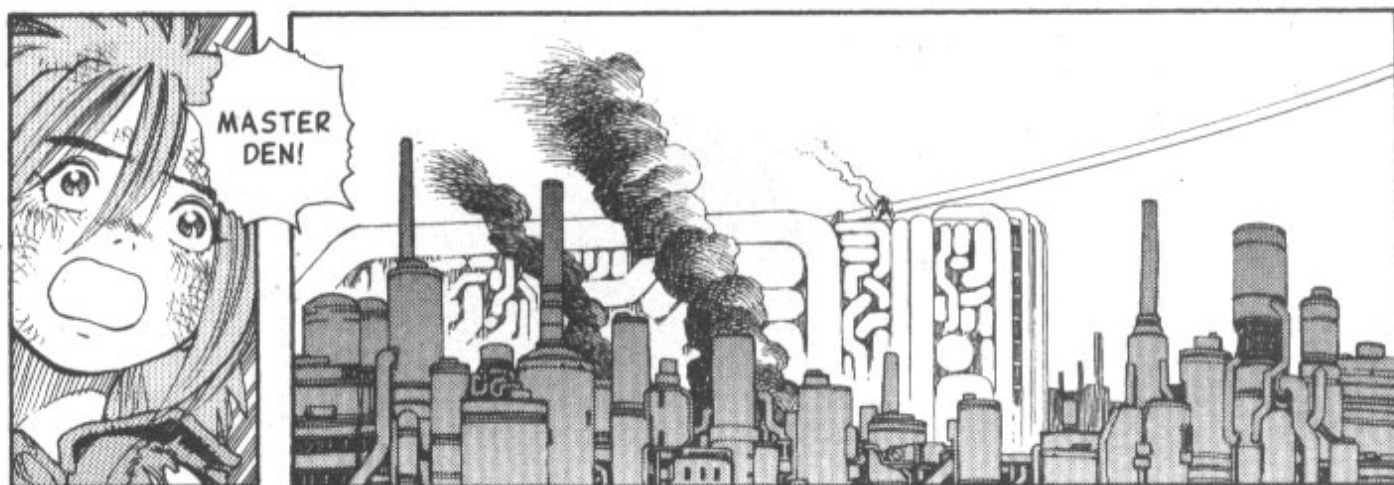
SOMEONE!
HELP ME!
ANYONE...! CALL
A DOCTOR...!

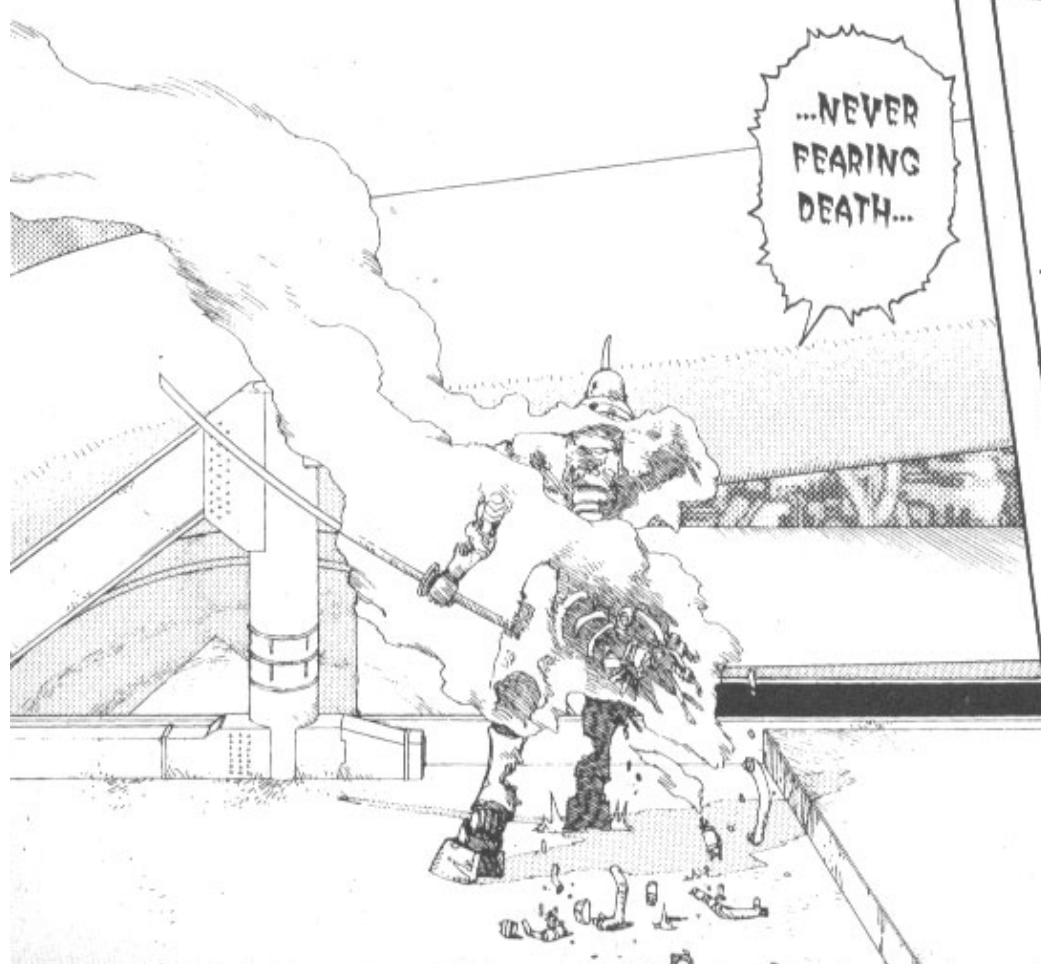


K-KOYOMI...
PLEASE...
DON'T
LEAVE ME
AGAIN...



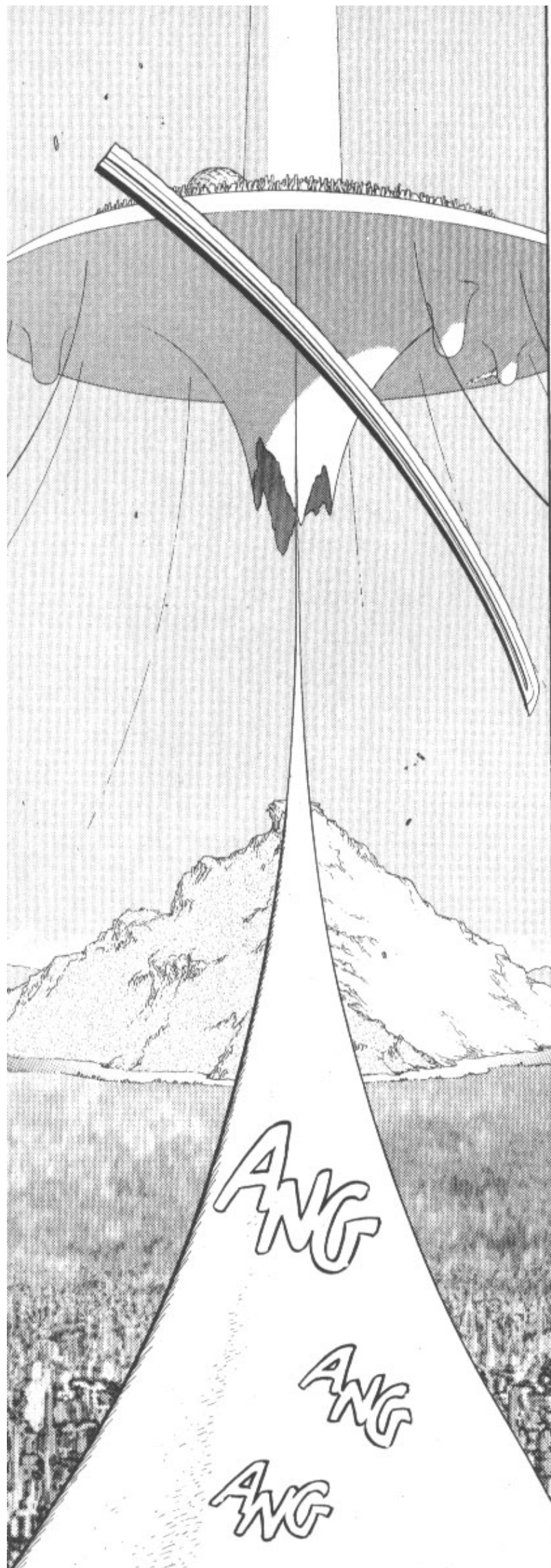
YOU
STINK OF
BOOZE,
OLD
MAN...





tang

skak **KIANG!**



I WON'T
GO BACK
TO KAOS'S
BODY...

TO DIE
HERE...



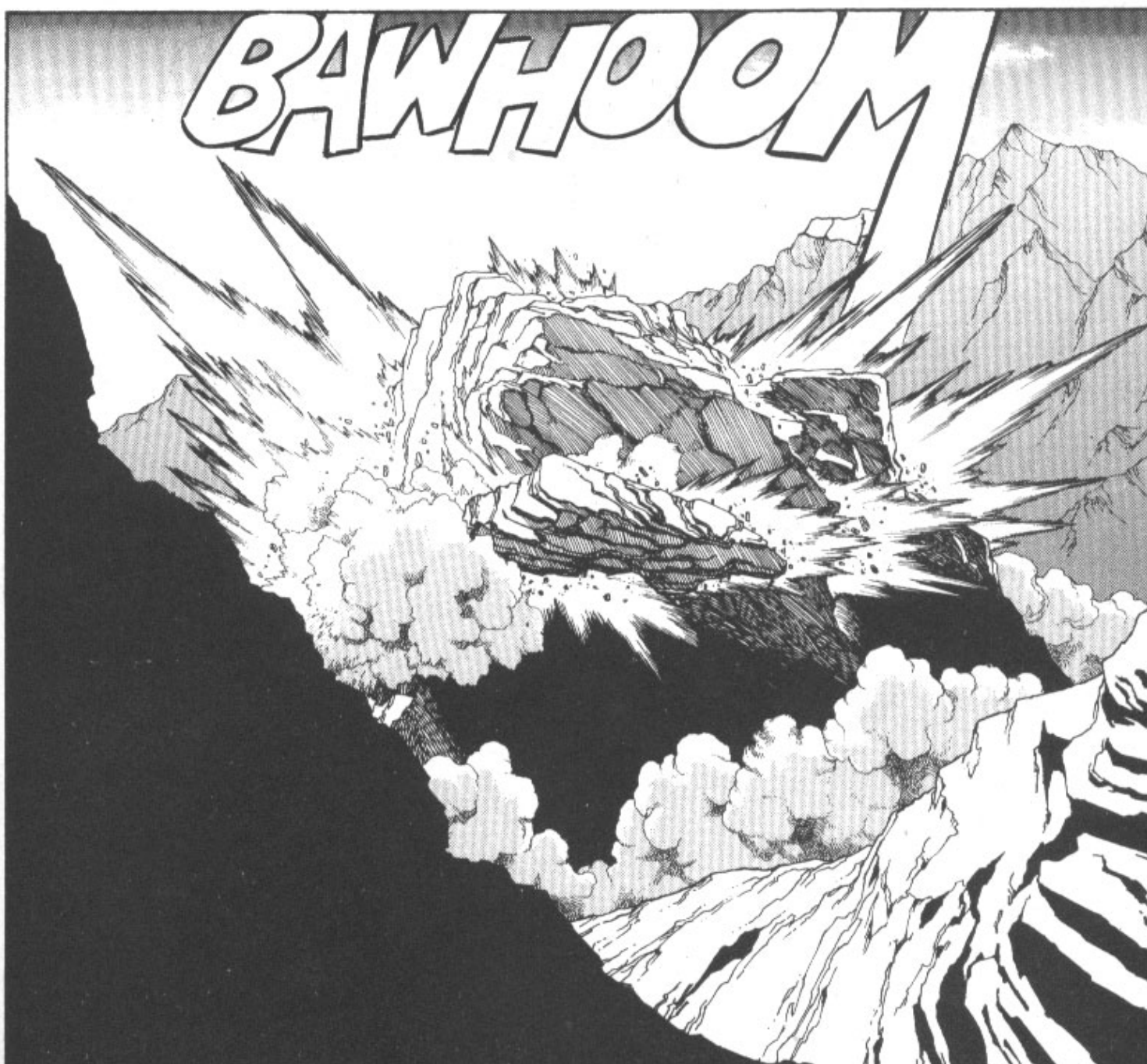
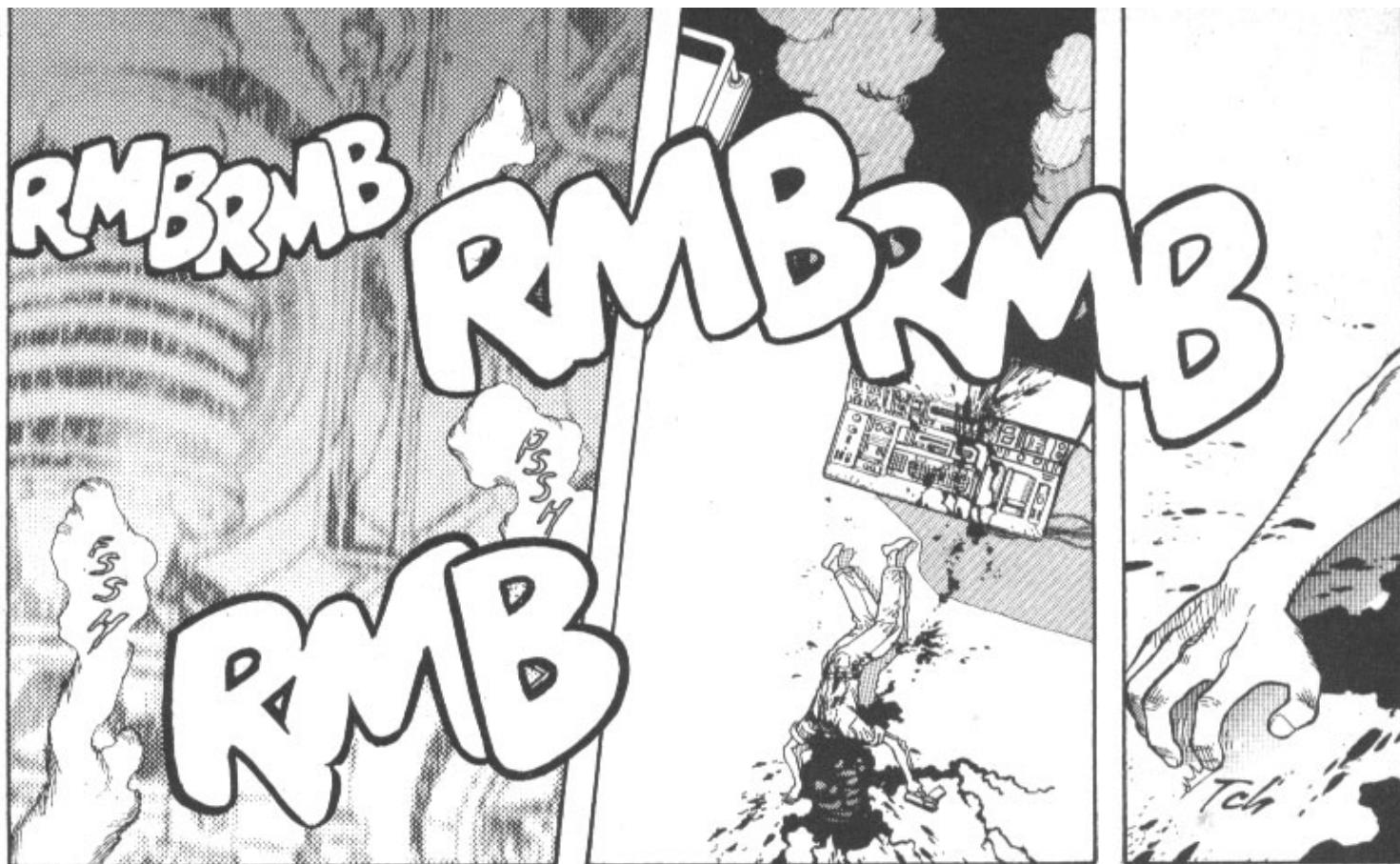


EPITAPH

Challenge 4: Memory









A
LONG,
LONG
DAY...



...FELT
LIKE A
HUNDRED
YEARS.



I'M
HEADING
TO THE
SCRAP-
YARD.

WHAT
ABOUT
YOU?

ME...
?



I
GUESS
I'M...
FREE
NOW.

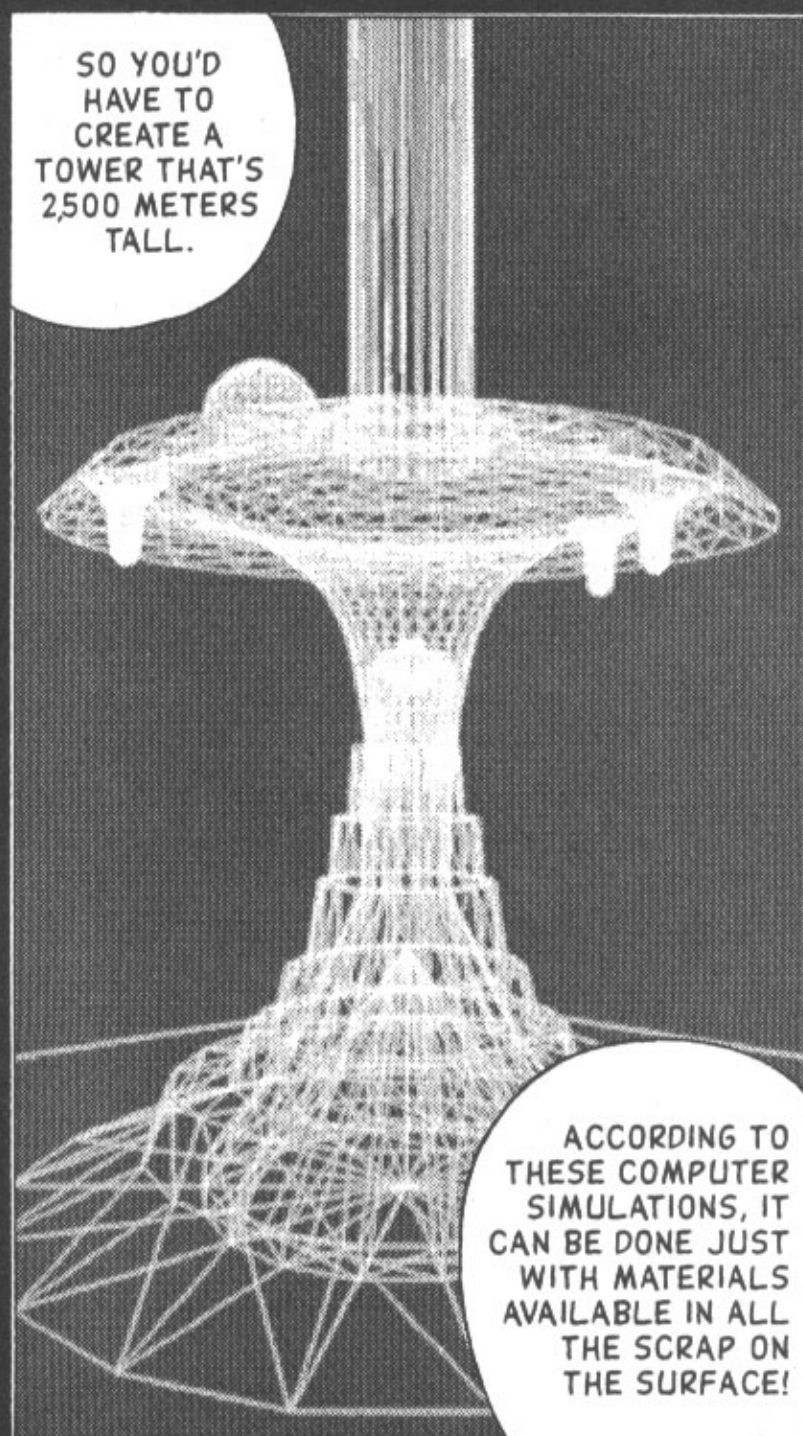


THERE'S
A PLAN
I WANT
TO SEE
THROUGH
AT THE
SCRAP-
YARD.



WHAT'S
THIS?

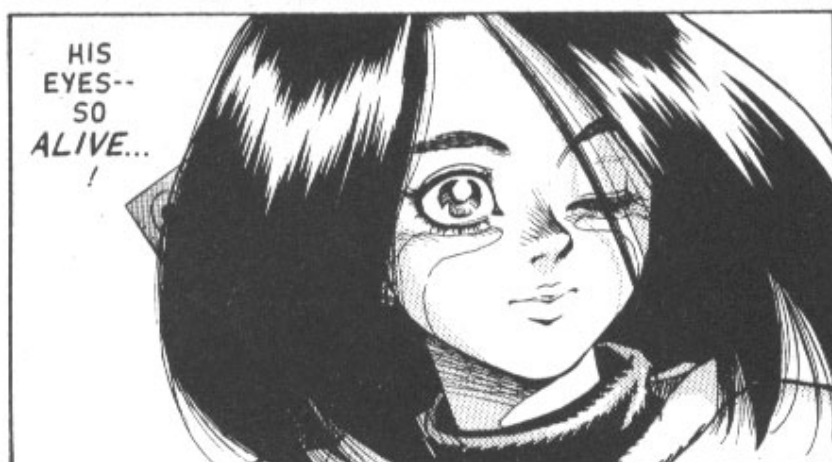
SOMETHING
LOU GAVE ME
WHEN WE WENT
TO FARM 21
YESTERDAY.





I DON'T KNOW
IF IT'LL TAKE
DECADES...
OR
CENTURIES...

BUT I
THINK IT'S
WORTH
A TRY!



HIS
EYES--
SO
ALIVE...
!

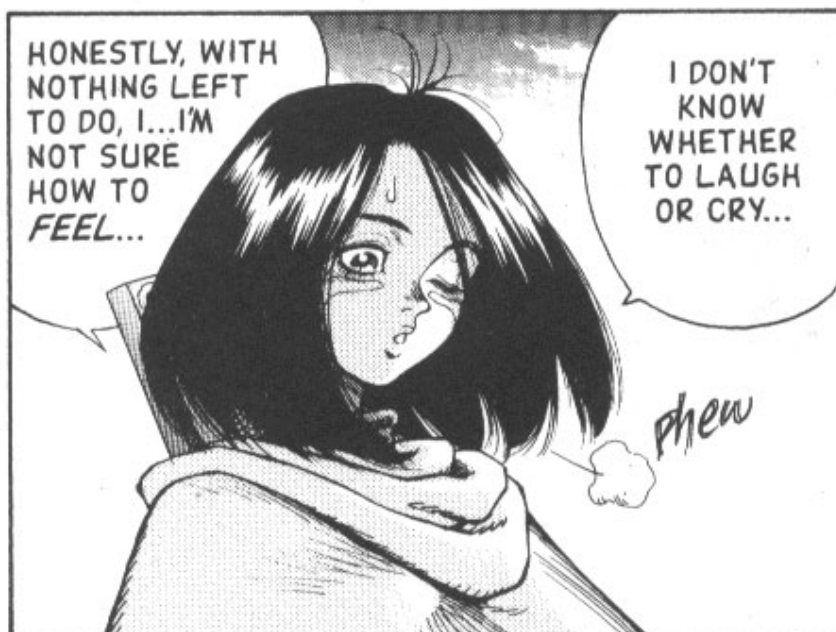


COME
WITH
ME,
ALITA!

MAYBE
LATER...
IF IT
FEELS
RIGHT.



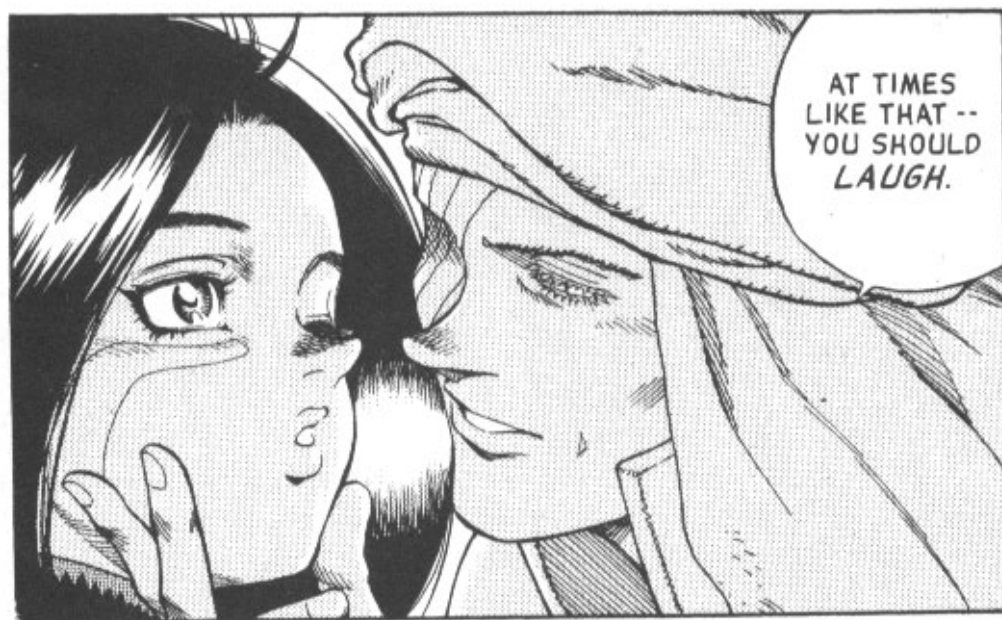
FOR THE
TIME BEING,
I THINK I'LL
CHECK OUT
FIGURE'S
FISHING
VILLAGE
TO THE
WEST.



HONESTLY, WITH
NOTHING LEFT
TO DO, I...I'M
NOT SURE
HOW TO
FEEL...

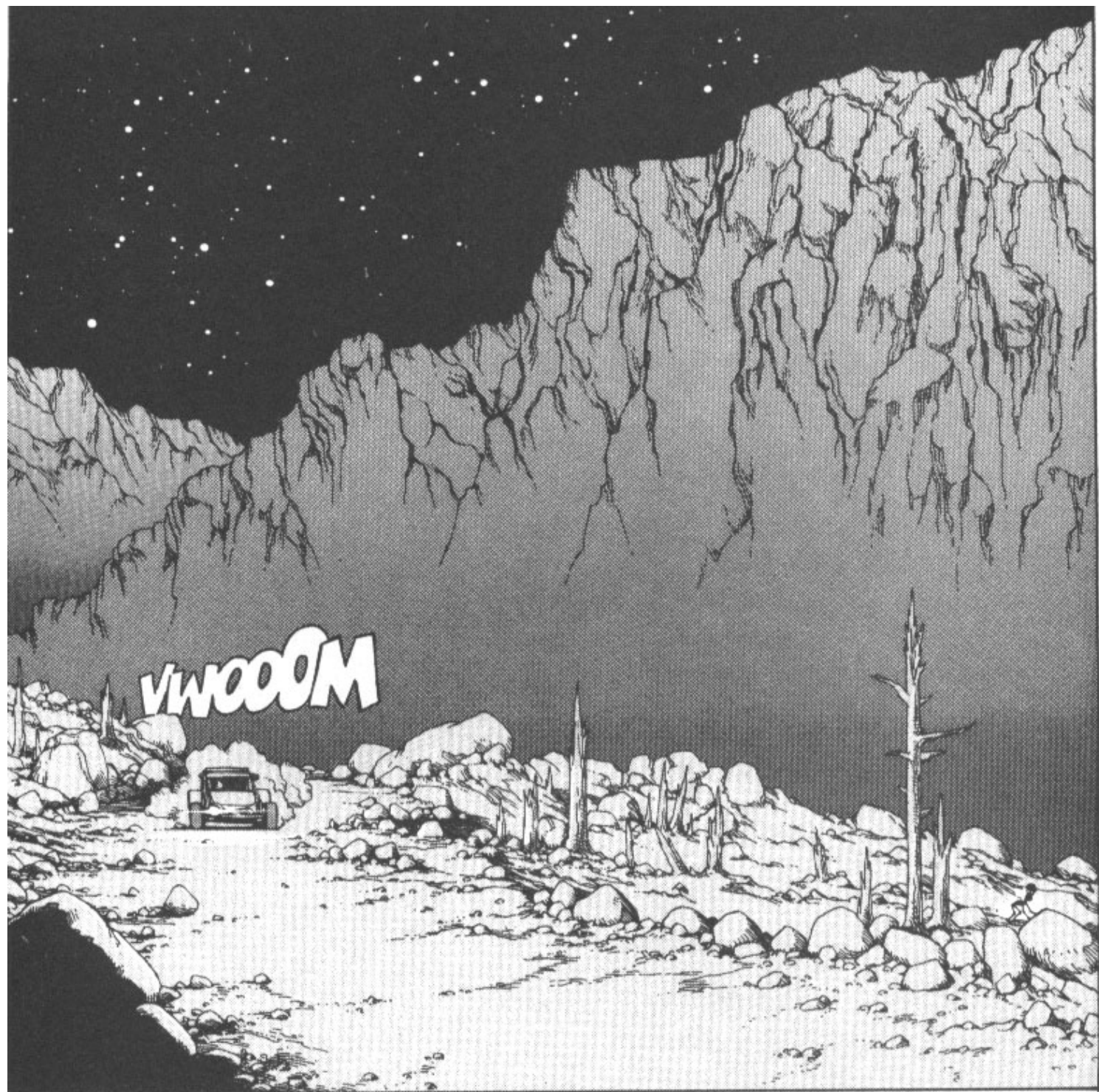
I DON'T
KNOW
WHETHER
TO LAUGH
OR CRY...

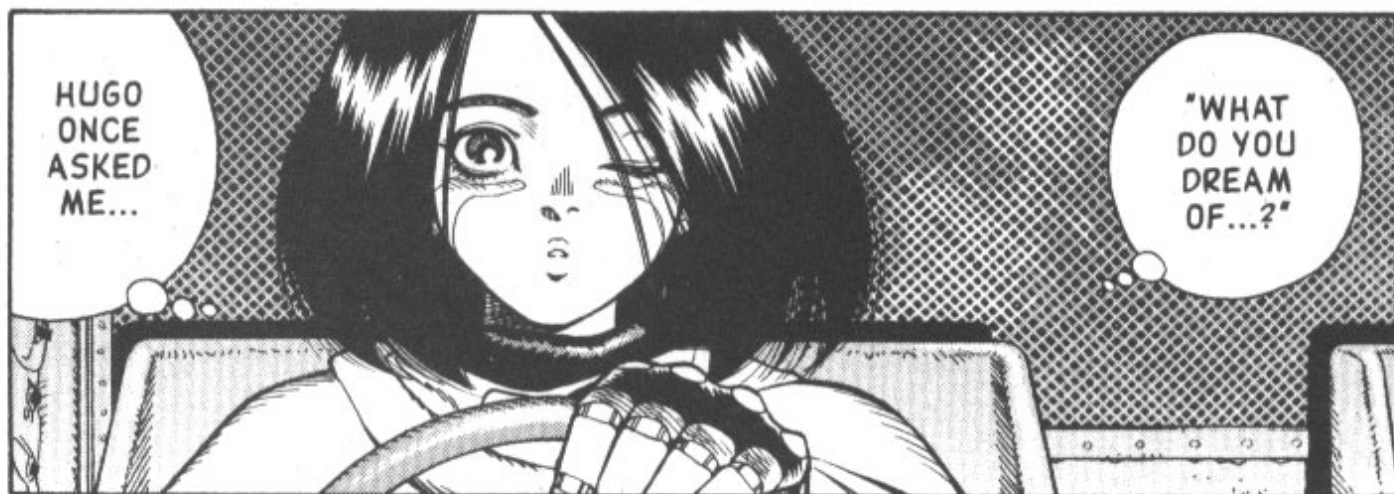
phew

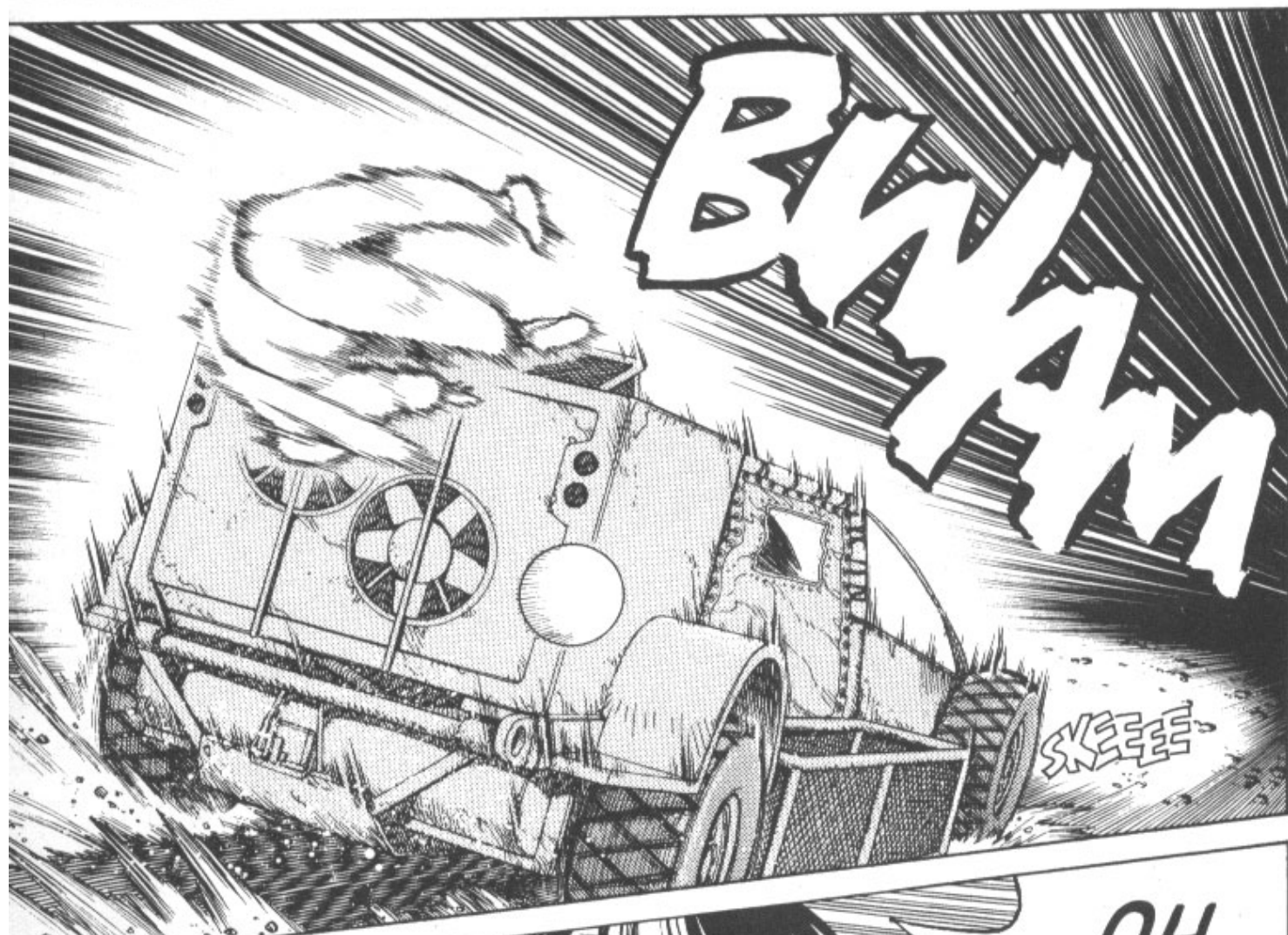


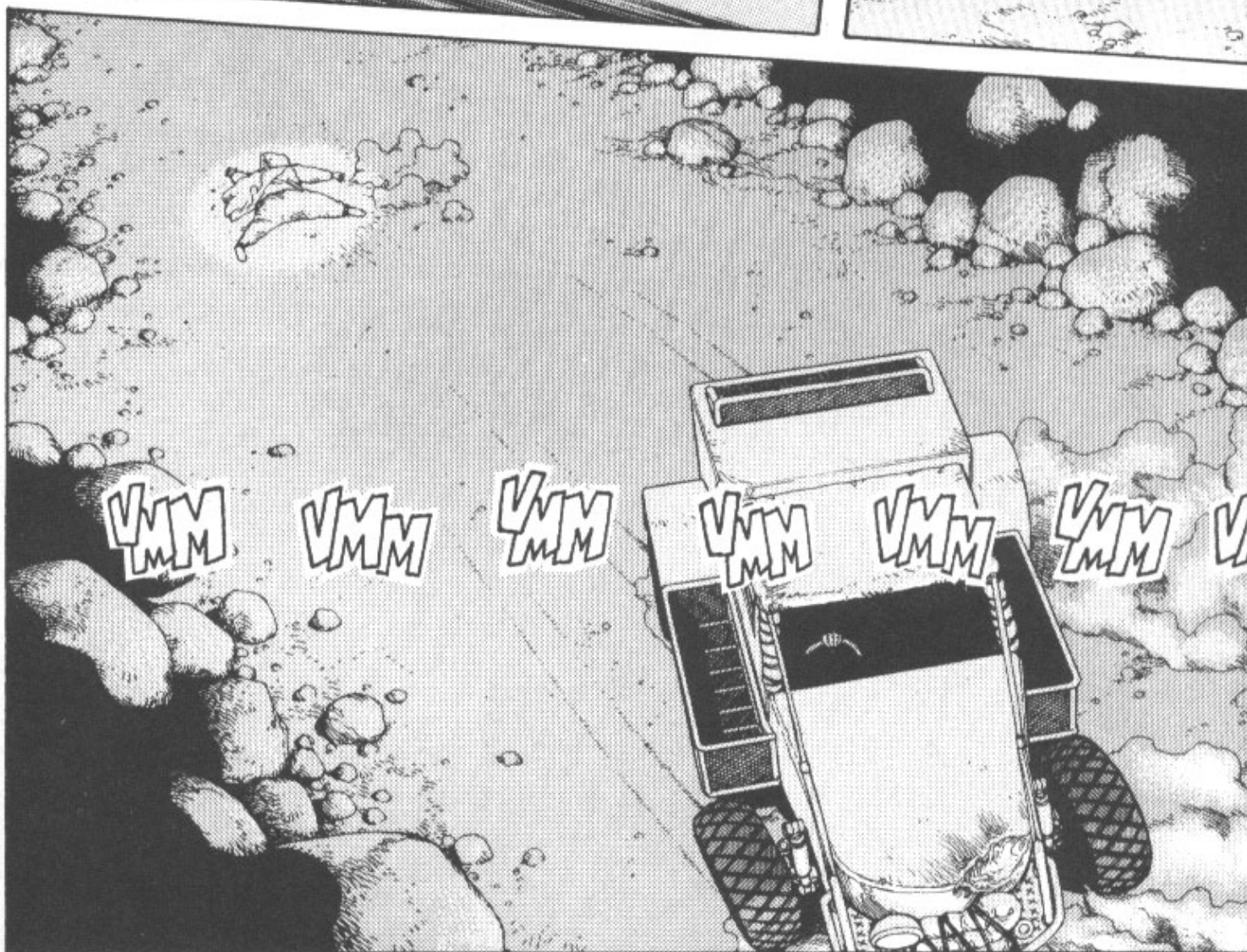
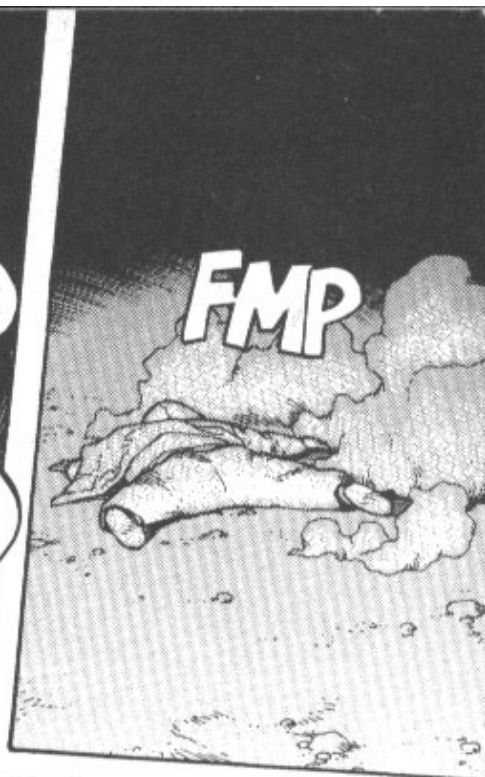
POW!

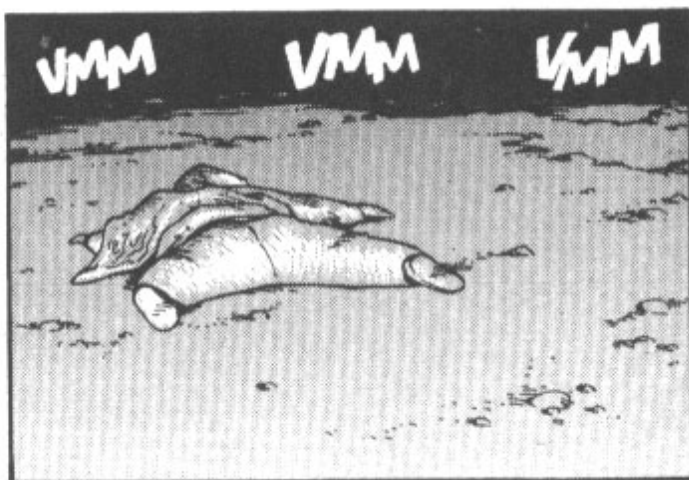
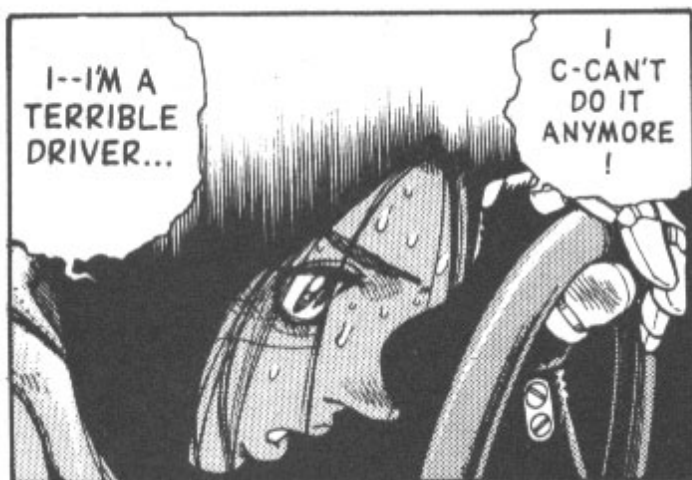


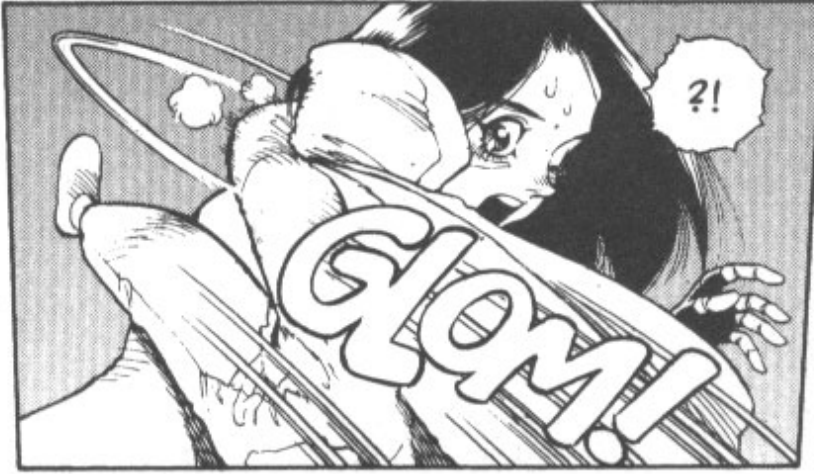
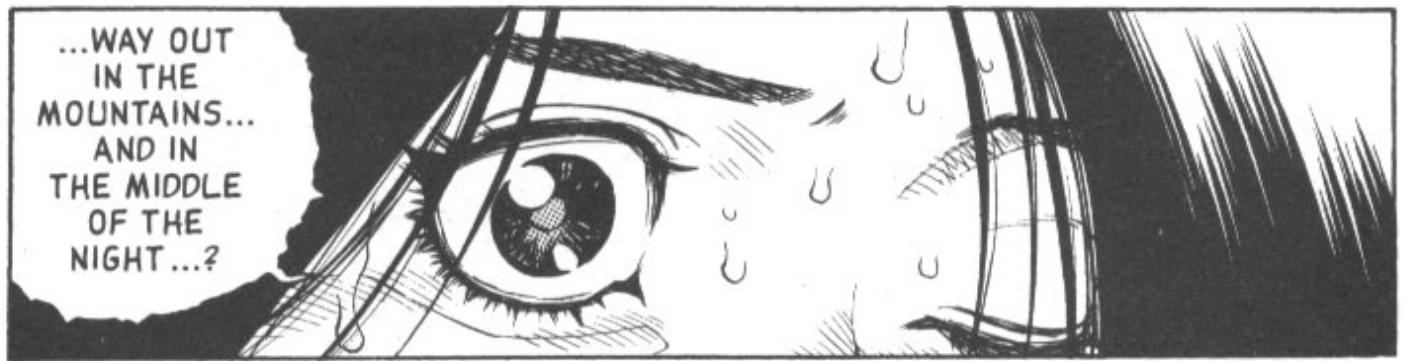


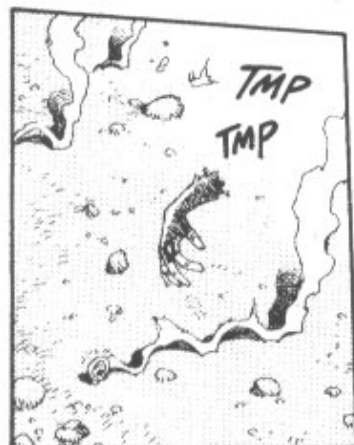
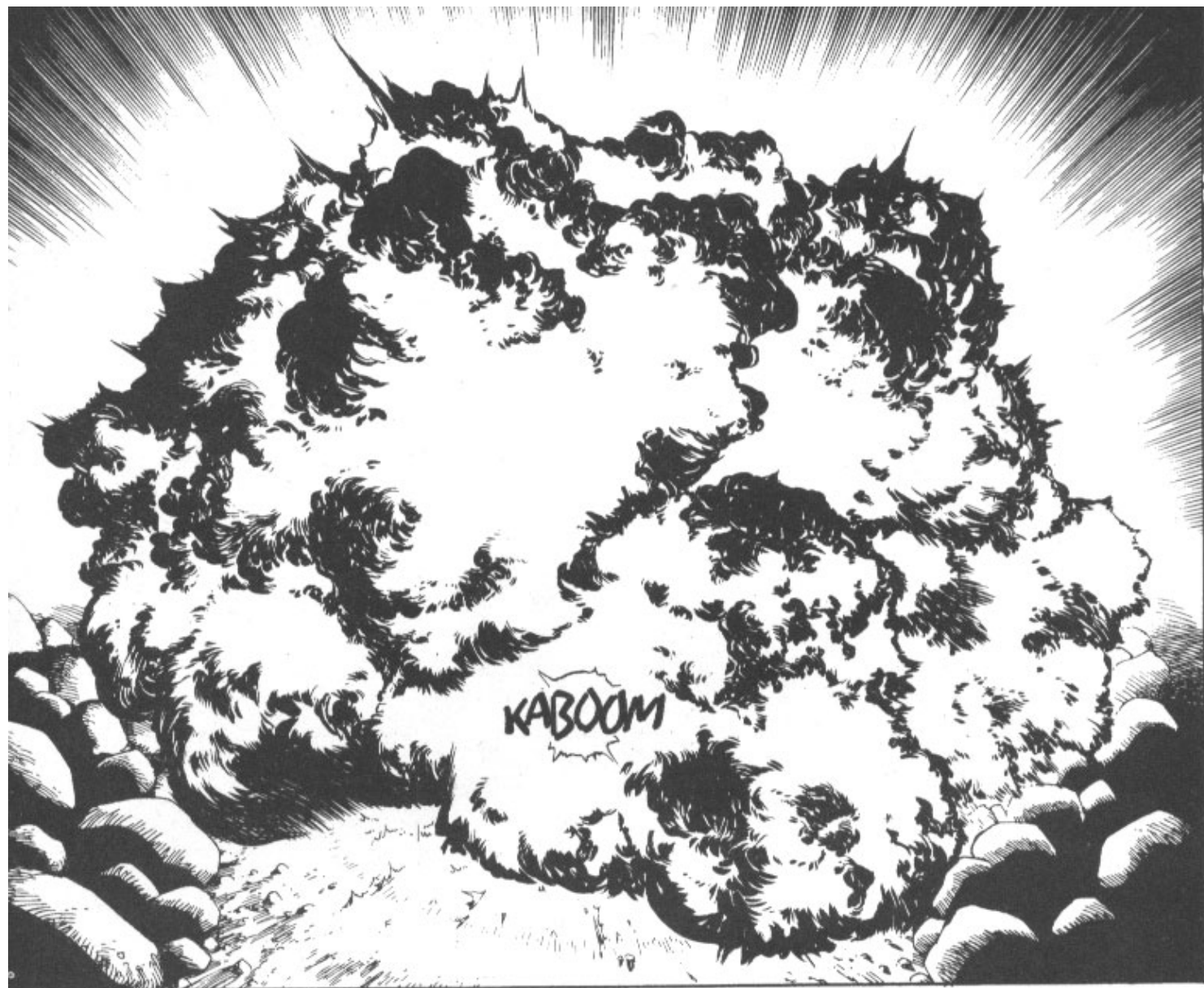


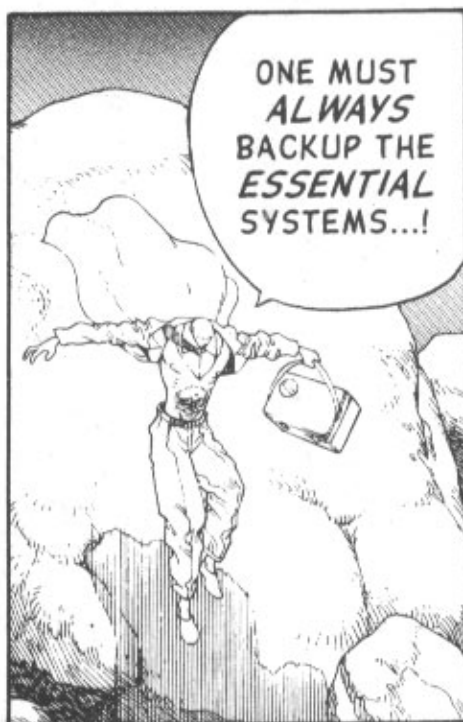










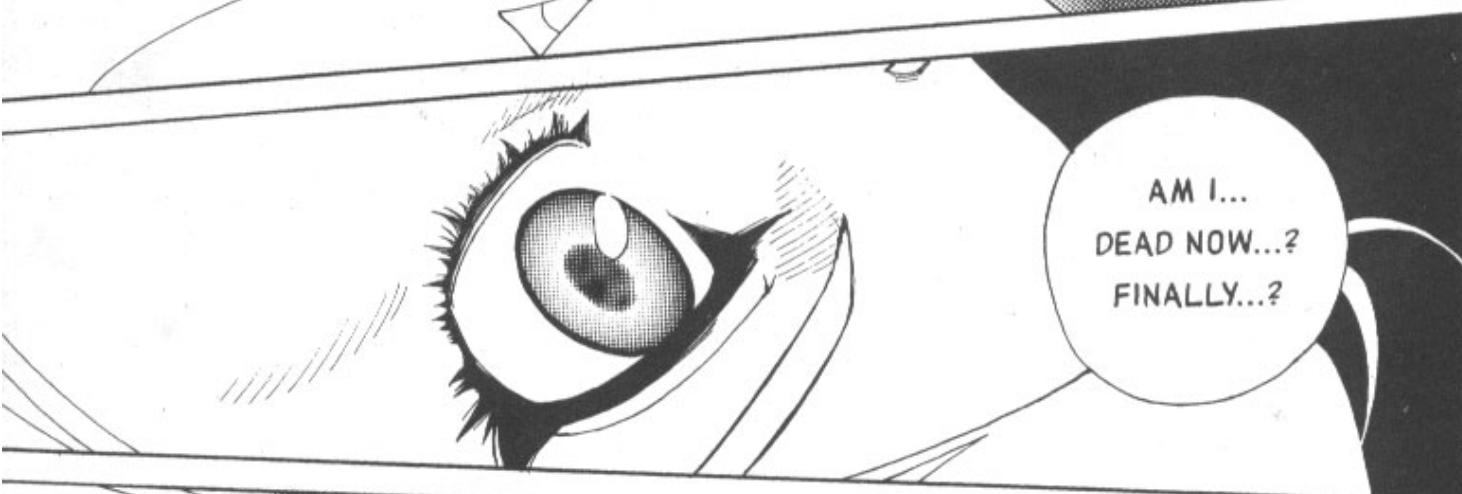






WH-
WHERE...
?

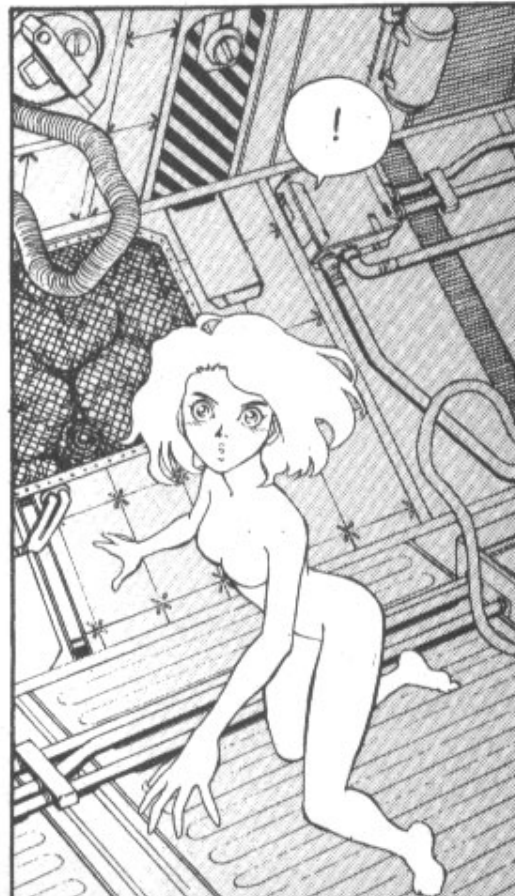
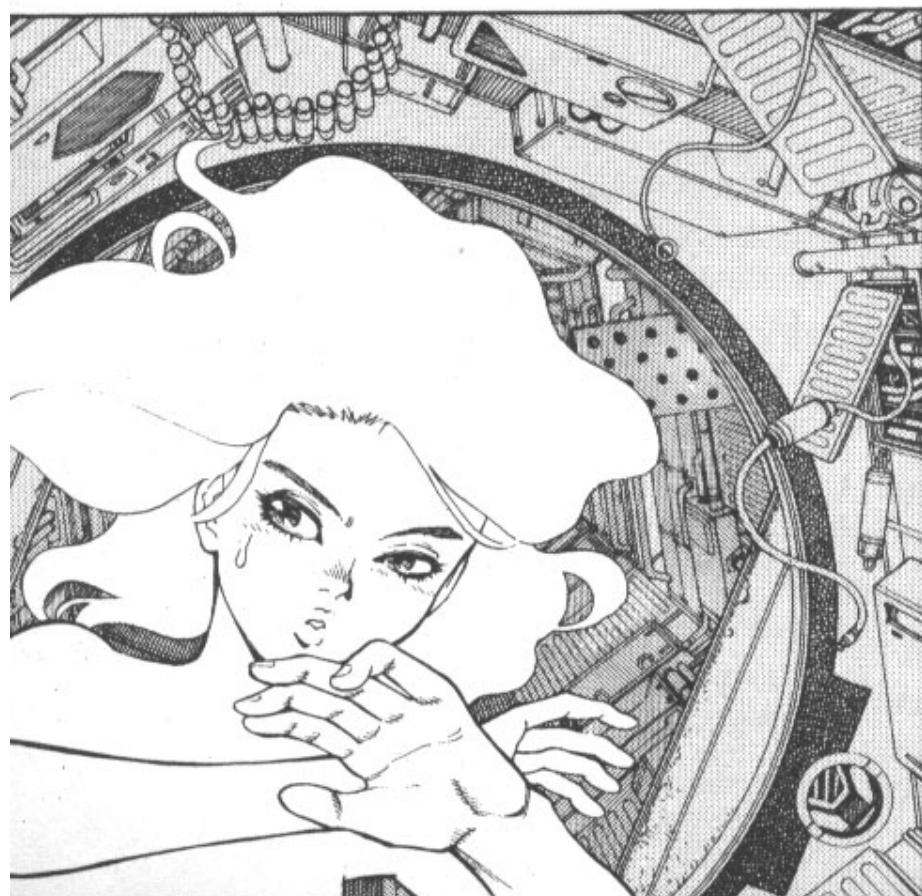
WHERE
AM
I...?

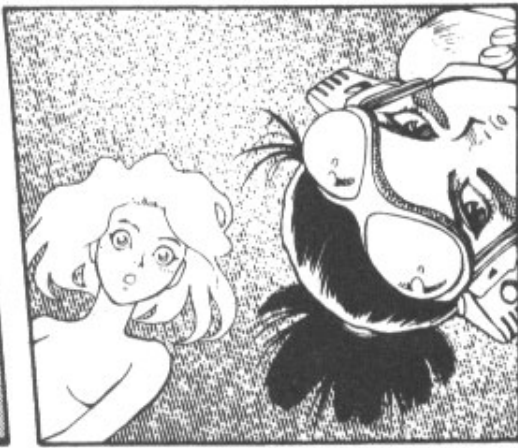
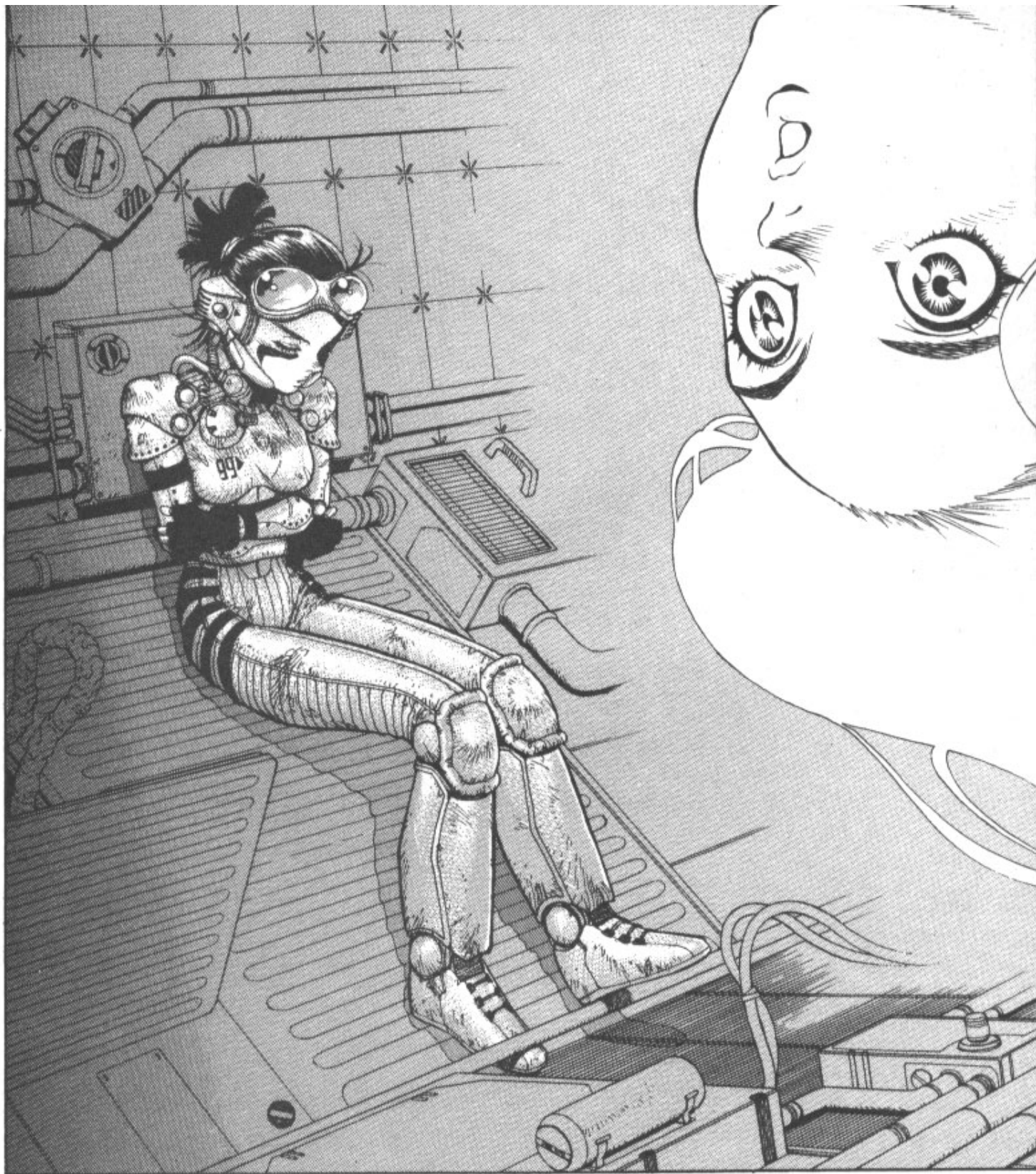


AM I...
DEAD NOW...?
FINALLY...?











OUR
CHANCES
OF
SURVIVAL
ARE *NIL*...

...ONLY
ONE WAY
TO
PRESERVE
OUR
HONOR!

WHAT
IS HE
TALKING
ABOUT?

IS
THIS A
STARSHIP
FROM
MARS
?



YOU ARE TO BREAK
AWAY FROM THIS
SHIP IN ZUBRINGER*
POCKETS AND AIM
FOR *KETHERES*
ELYION, THE HEAD-
QUARTERS OF EARTH'S
GOVERNMENT! THERE
YOU WILL DETONATE
YOUR NUCLEAR
DEVICES!



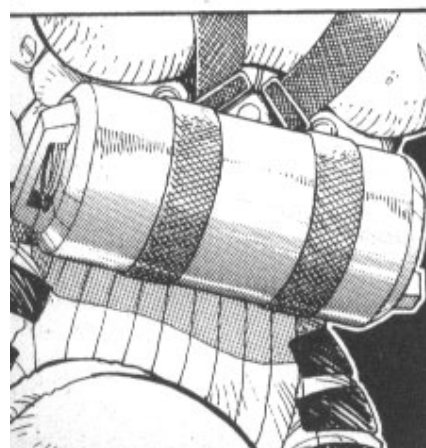
ARE THEY
ALL GOING
TO
COMMIT
SUICIDE!?

WHY ISN'T
ANYONE
PROTESTING
!?

IS THERE
A WAR
GOING
ON!?



*ZUBRINGER-A HIGHLY ADVANCED MATERIAL MADE UP OF NANO-MACHINES. ITS GEL-LIKE FORM IS USED TO PROTECT CYBORGS FROM RADIATION AND EXTREME TEMPERATURES IN THE VACUUM OF SPACE. IT CAN BE CONTROLLED ELECTRONICALLY TO ALTER ITS COLOR, SHAPE, AND RIGIDITY, MAKING IT AN EXTREMELY EFFECTIVE STEALTH SPACE SUIT.





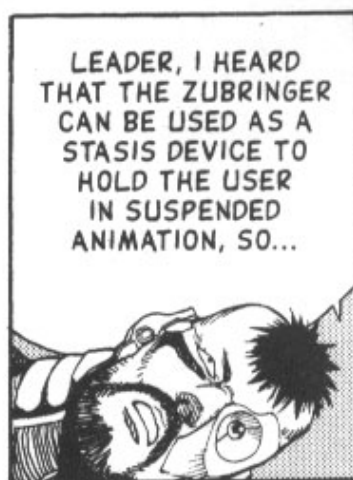
THE SPACE CITY OF **KETHERES** IS LINKED TO THE DELICATELY BALANCED ORBITAL RING AROUND THE EARTH!

BLOW UP ANY SECTION OF THE RING, AND IT WILL **COLLAPSE**.

THEY WILL **KNOW** THEIR HUBRIS AS THEY DIE!

AFTER ALL OF YOU DEPART, THIS SHIP WILL SELF-DESTRUCT.

DISPOSE OF YOUR WOUNDED.



LEADER, I HEARD THAT THE ZUBRINGER CAN BE USED AS A STASIS DEVICE TO HOLD THE USER IN SUSPENDED ANIMATION, SO...

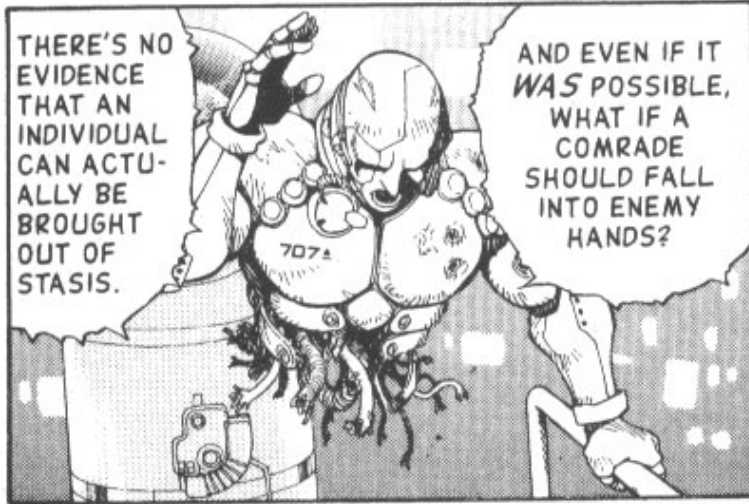


WHAT ABOUT IT?



CAN'T WE SAVE THE WOUNDED IN THAT MANNER?

TO HAVE TO KILL THEM BECAUSE THEY CAN NO LONGER FIGHT... SEEMS WRONG...

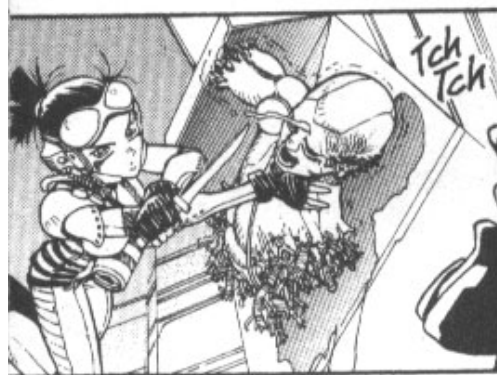
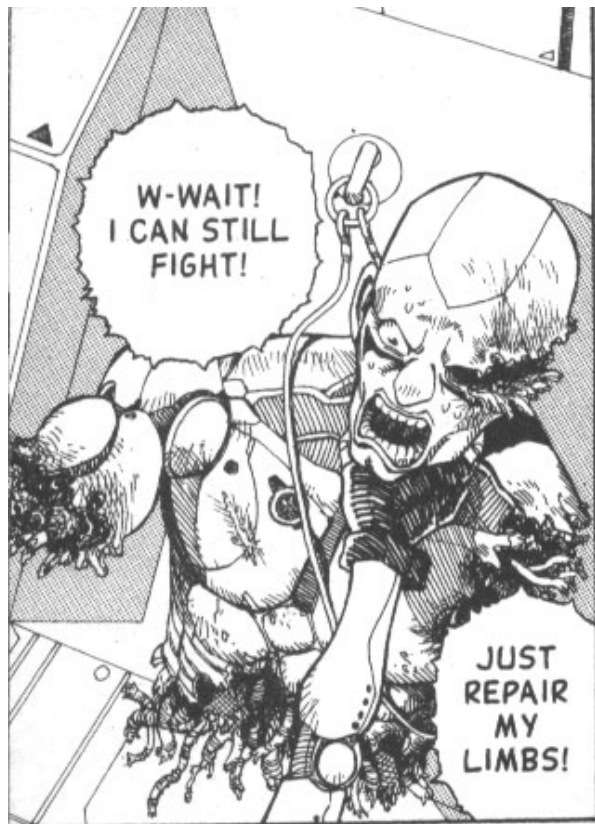


THERE'S NO EVIDENCE THAT AN INDIVIDUAL CAN ACTUALLY BE BROUGHT OUT OF STASIS.

AND EVEN IF IT **WAS** POSSIBLE, WHAT IF A COMRADE SHOULD FALL INTO ENEMY HANDS?

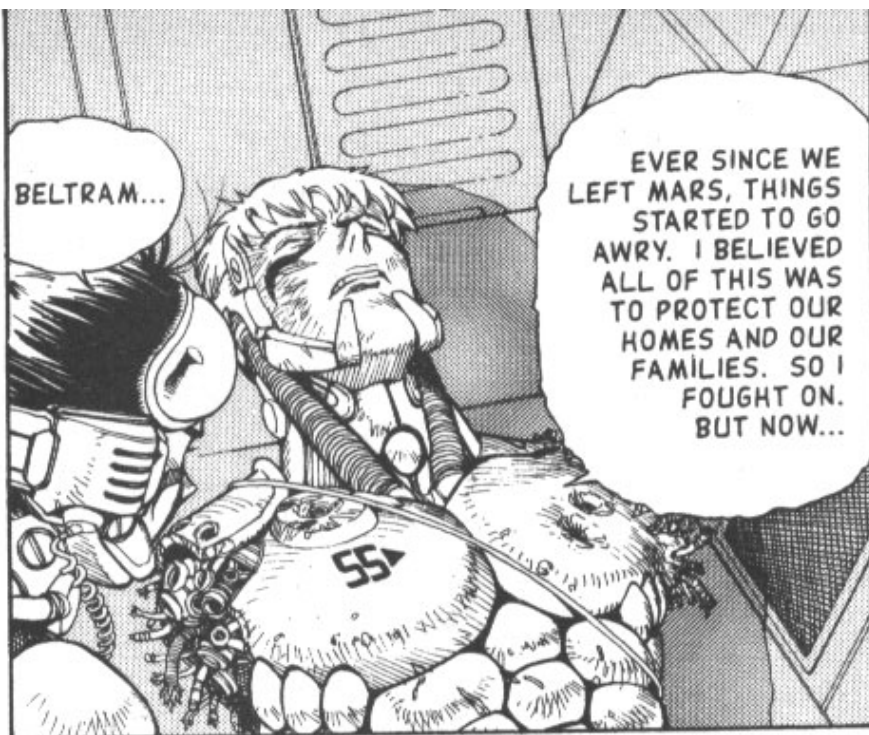


MAY **MARS** LOOK DOWN UPON US IN OUR BATTLE!



THAT LAST MISSION... TO LUNAR CITY... THEIR HABITAT DOME WAS FILLED WITH CHILDREN... HUNDREDS OF THEM. THEY WERE ALL PROBABLY REFUGEES... AND I...





BELTRAM...

EVER SINCE WE
LEFT MARS, THINGS
STARTED TO GO
AWRY. I BELIEVED
ALL OF THIS WAS
TO PROTECT OUR
HOMES AND OUR
FAMILIES. SO I
FOUGHT ON.
BUT NOW...



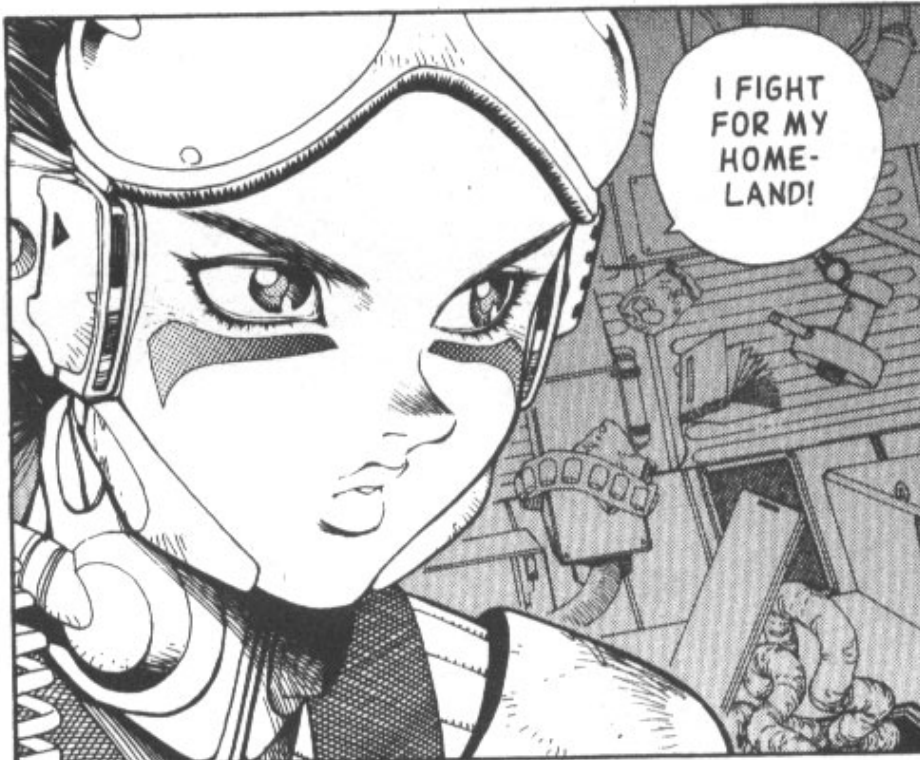
YOKO,
YOU'RE AN
ORPHAN...
WHY DO YOU
FIGHT...FOR
WHAT?



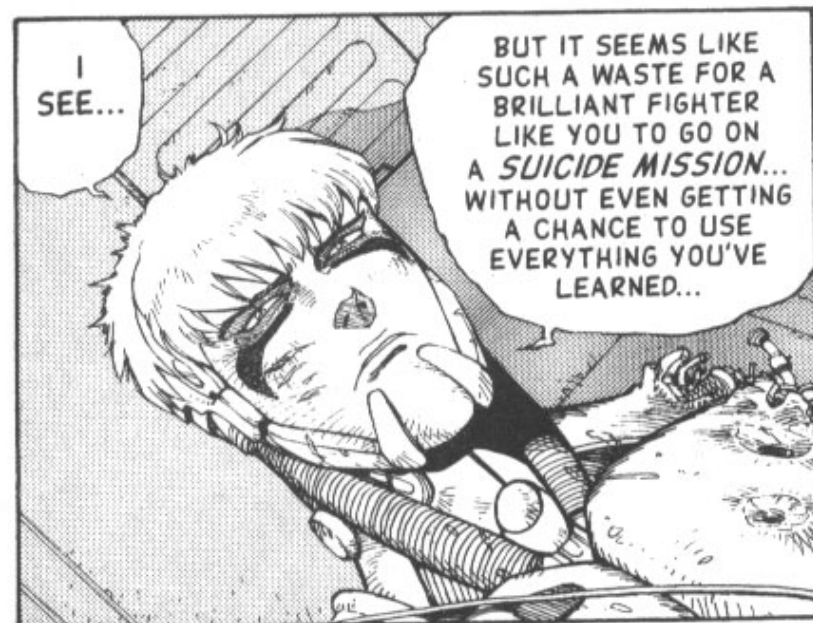
I...



AH!



I FIGHT
FOR MY HOME-
LAND!



I
SEE...

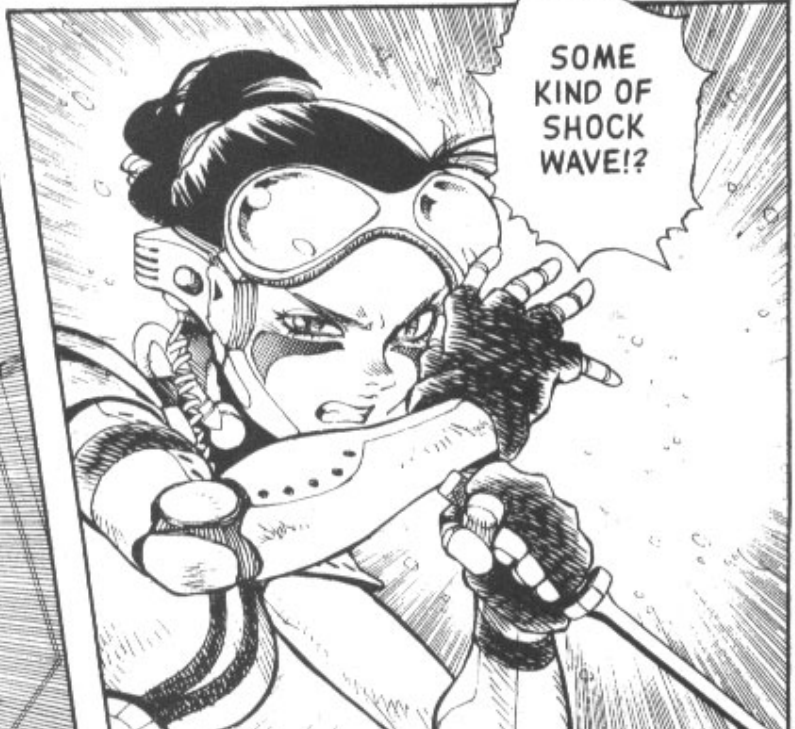
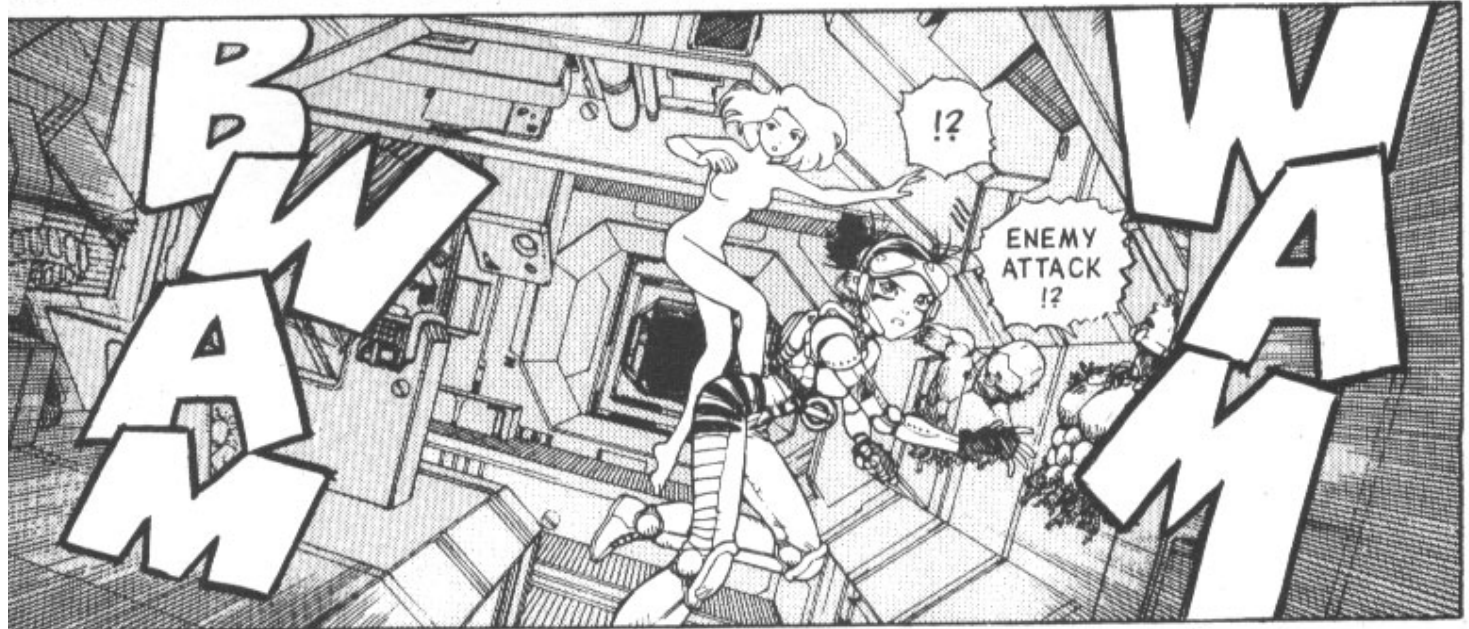
BUT IT SEEMS LIKE
SUCH A WASTE FOR A
BRILLIANT FIGHTER
LIKE YOU TO GO ON
A *SUICIDE MISSION*...
WITHOUT EVEN GETTING
A CHANCE TO USE
EVERYTHING YOU'VE
LEARNED...

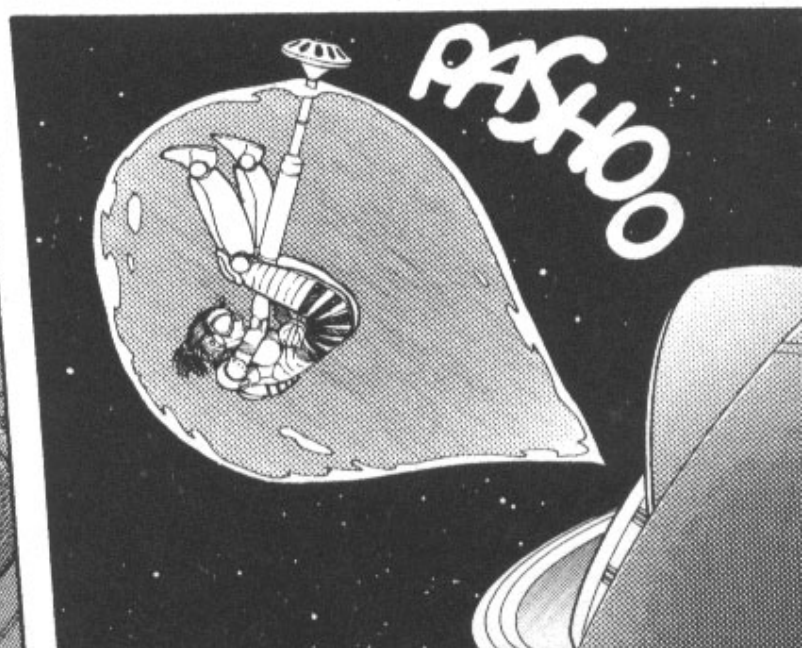
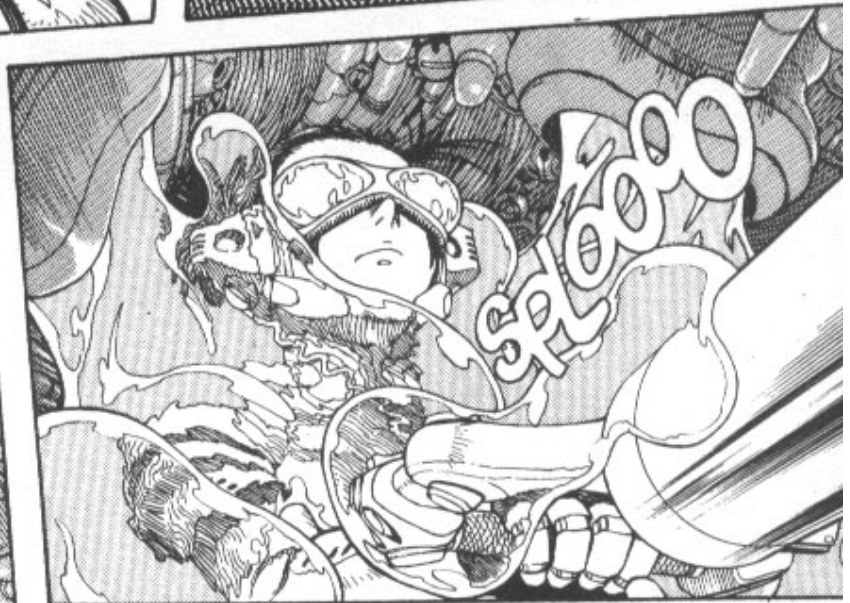
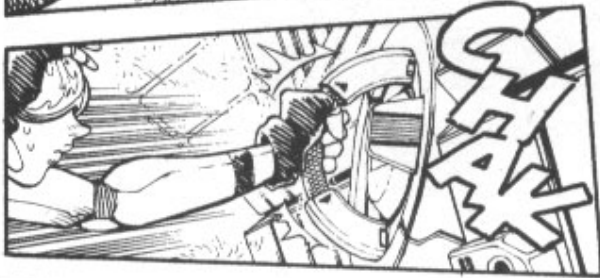


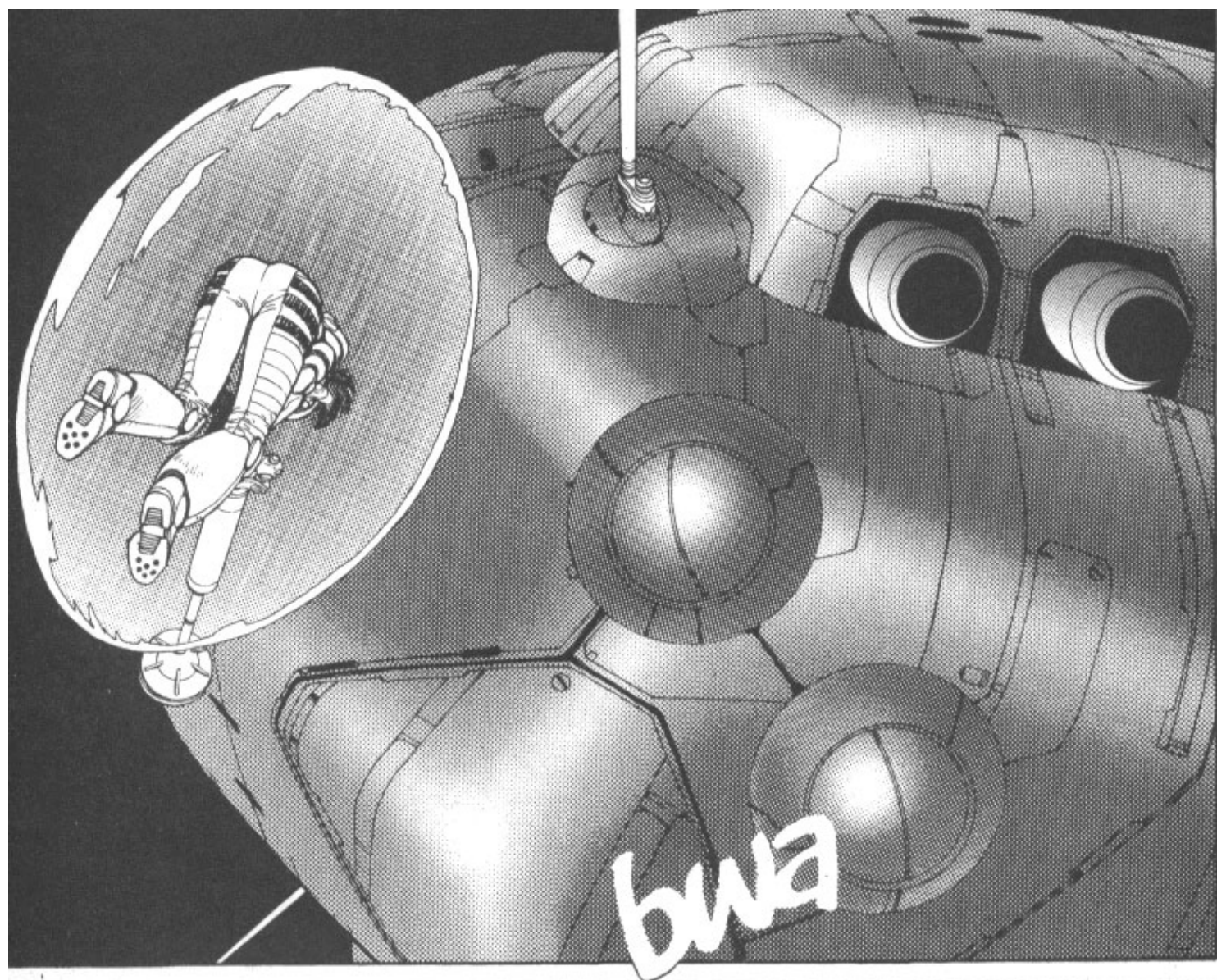
YOU
TALK
TOO
MUCH,
BELTRAM...
!

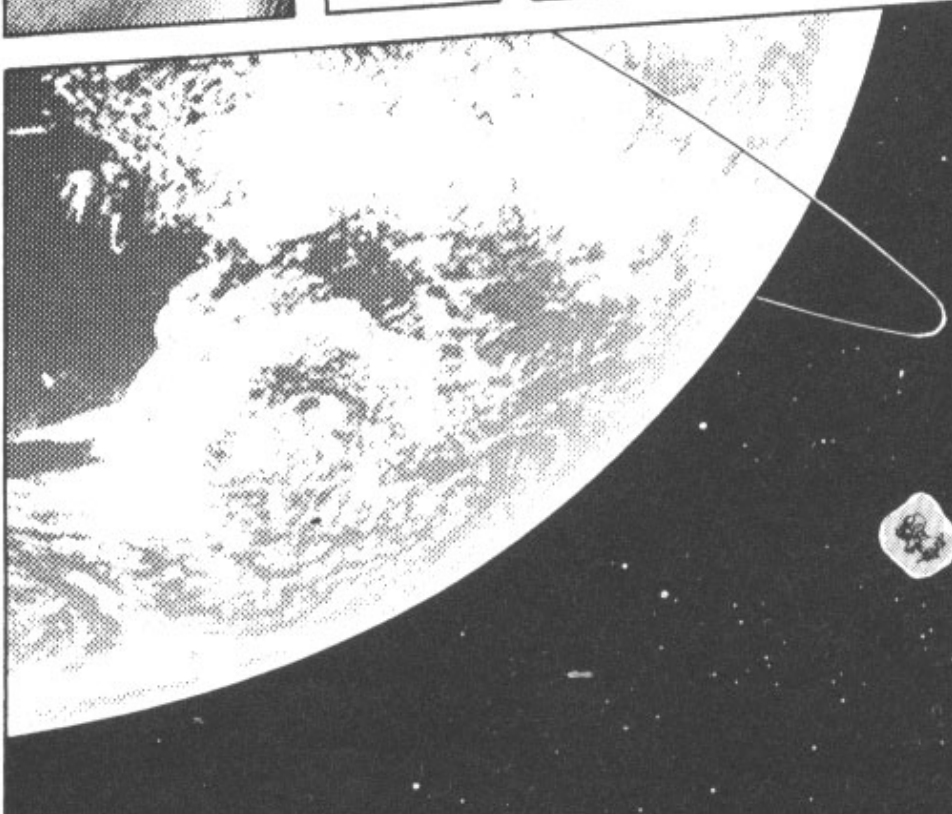
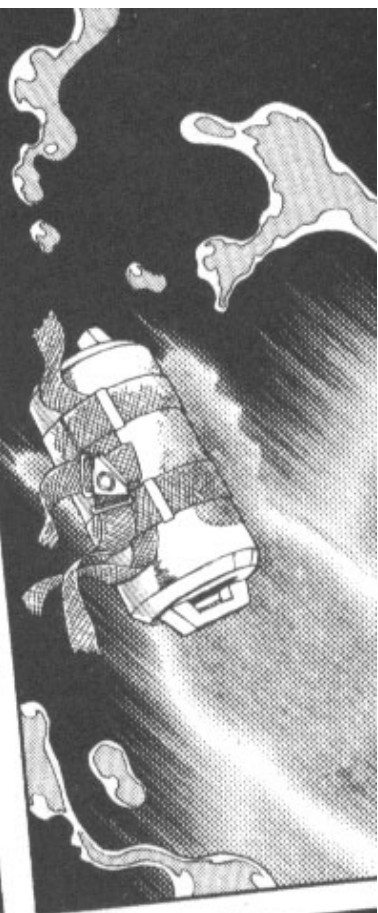


YOKO,
I'VE
ALWAYS LOV--











NNH...

UGH...!
WHAT A
HORRIBLE
DREAM...

I'VE GOT
TO FORGET
THAT
NIGHTMARE...

OH! SHE
SEEMS TO
BE AWAKE
NOW.

TAK

TAK

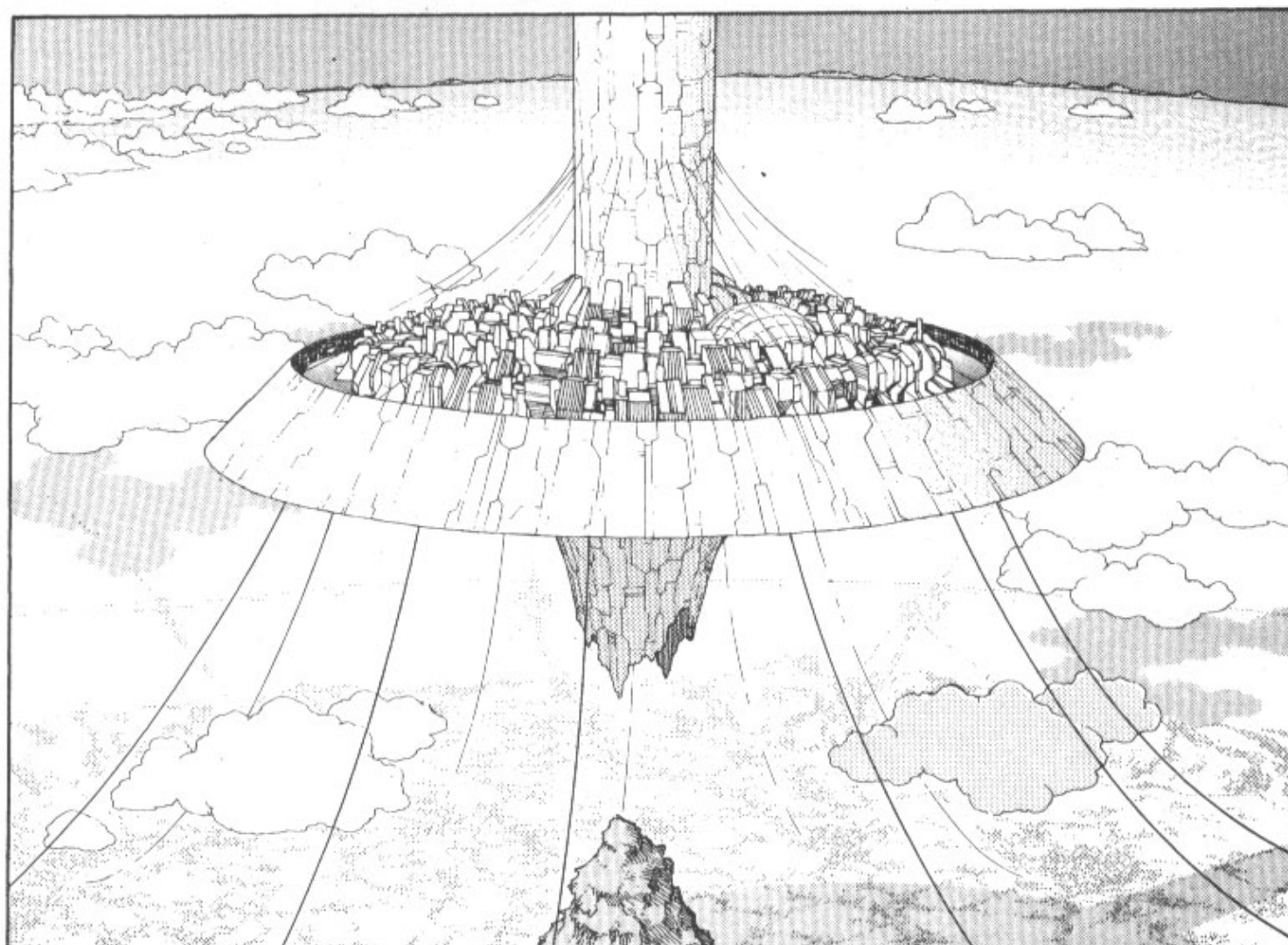
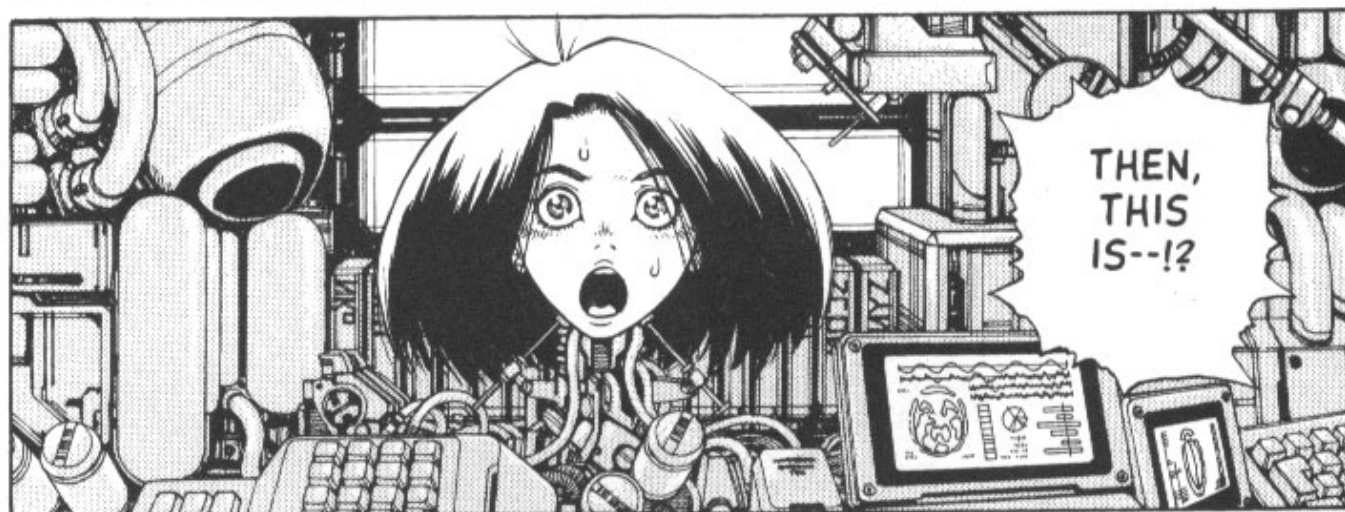


H-HOW
DO YOU
FEEL,
ALITA...?

KYAHAHAAAA!
WELCOME
TO UTOPIA,
SWEETIE!



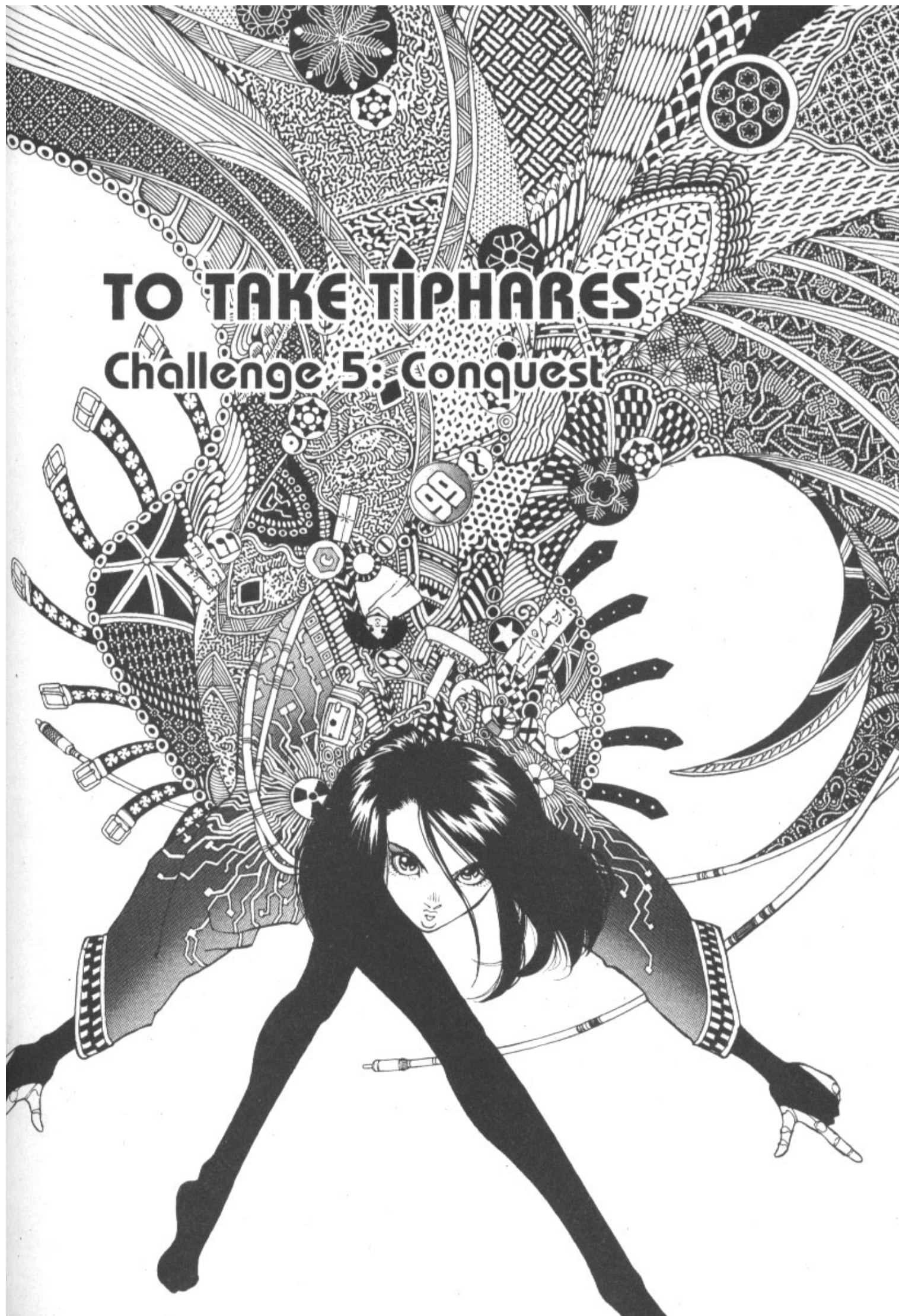
H-
HUH
!?





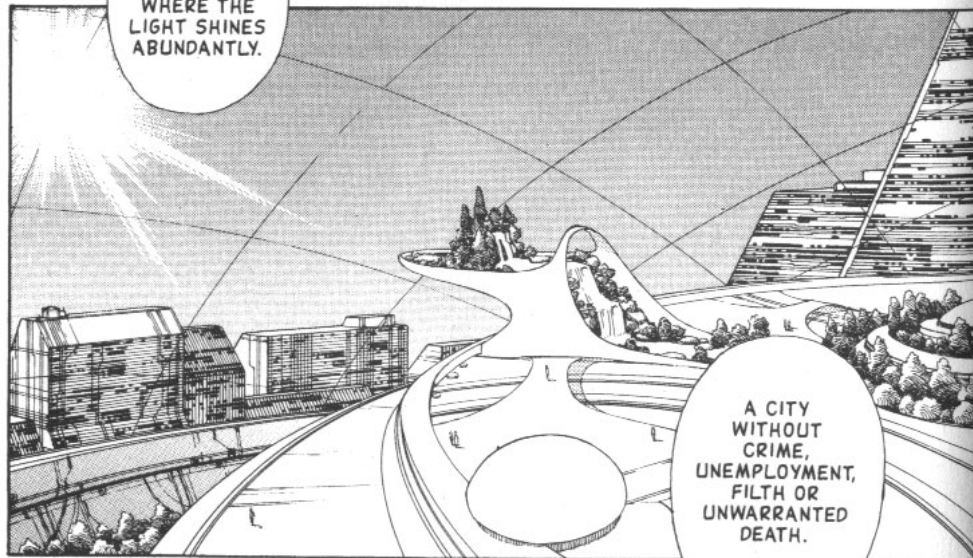
TO TAKE TIPHARES

Challenge 5: Conquest



shaww000

A CITY WHERE THE
LAW IS
ABSOLUTE.
WHERE THE
LIGHT SHINES
ABUNDANTLY.



A CITY WITHOUT
CRIME,
UNEMPLOYMENT,
FILTH OR
UNWARRANTED
DEATH.

THIS
IS
TIPHARES,
ALITA!

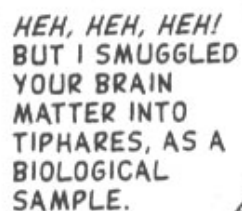


THIS IS
REAL,
ISN'T
IT...?

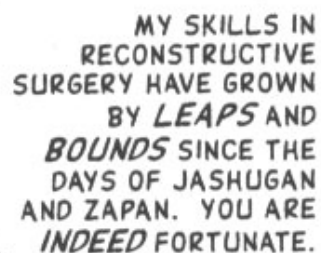




YOU
DIED
IN THAT
EXPLOSION
!



HEH, HEH, HEH!
BUT I SMUGGLED
YOUR BRAIN
MATTER INTO
TIPHARES, AS A
BIOLOGICAL
SAMPLE.



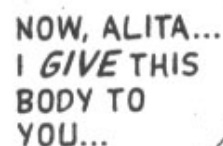
MY SKILLS IN
RECONSTRUCTIVE
SURGERY HAVE GROWN
BY *LEAPS* AND
BOUNDS SINCE THE
DAYS OF JASHUGAN
AND ZAPAN. YOU ARE
INDEED FORTUNATE.



HEH,
HEH,
HEH...



THIS IS THE
"IMAGINOS"--A
SPECIAL BODY I
CONSTRUCTED OF
NANO-MACHINE
COMPONENTS,
USING YOUR OLD
BERSERKER BODY
AS A BASE.



NOW, ALITA...
I *GIVE* THIS
BODY TO
YOU...



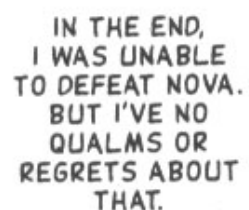
...IF,
IF,
IF...



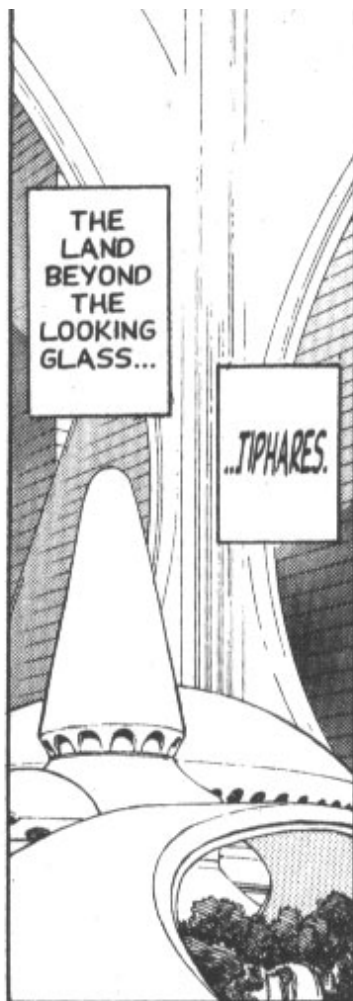
OF
COURSE, I
REMOVED THE
DANGEROUS
BITS!



...YOU
DON'T TRY
TO KILL
ME ANY-
MORE!

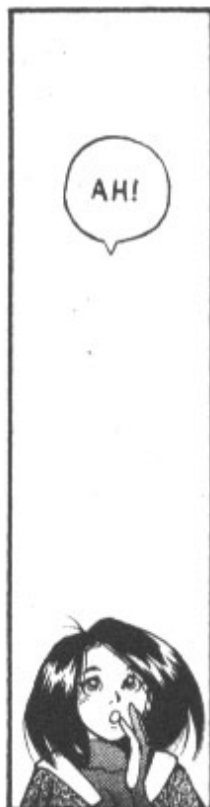


IN THE END,
I WAS UNABLE
TO DEFEAT NOVA.
BUT I'VE NO
QUALMS OR
REGRETS ABOUT
THAT.



THE
LAND
BEYOND
THE
LOOKING
GLASS...

...TIPHARES.



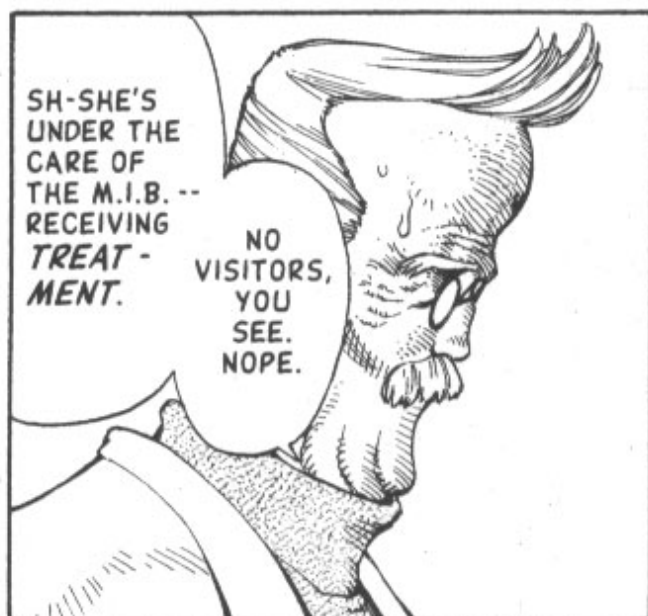
AH!



WHAT'S
LOU UP
TO NOW?

I HEARD
SHE GOT
FIRED
FROM THE
G.I.B....

OH,
MISS
COLLINS...
?



SH-SHE'S
UNDER THE
CARE OF
THE M.I.B. --
RECEIVING
TREAT-
MENT.

NO
VISITORS,
YOU
SEE.
NOPE.



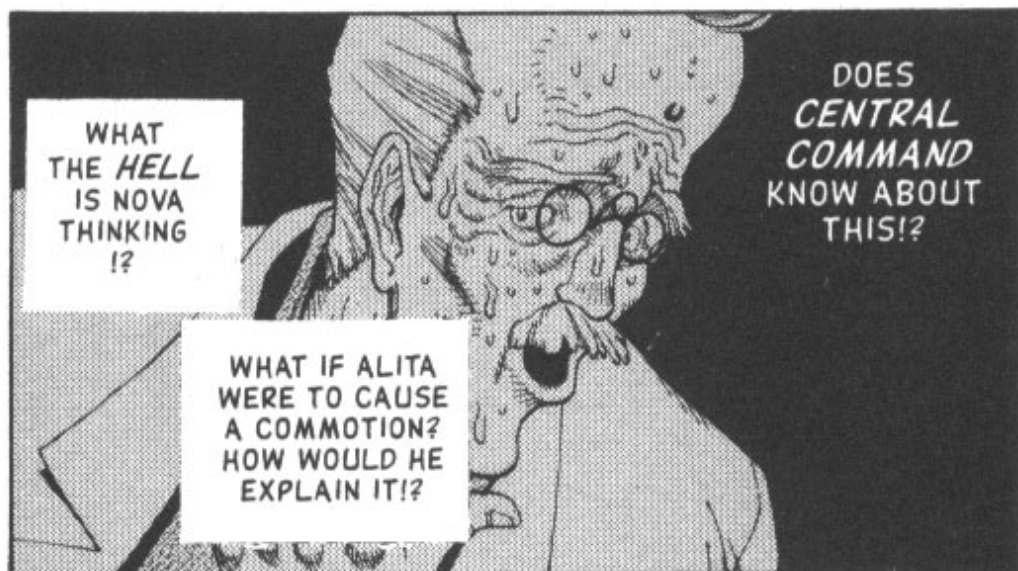
IS
SHE
SICK
!?

WELL...
UH...
YEAH...

ANYWAY,
WOULD YOU
LIKE TO GO
TO A MUSEUM,
OR PERHAPS
AN ART
GALLERY!?



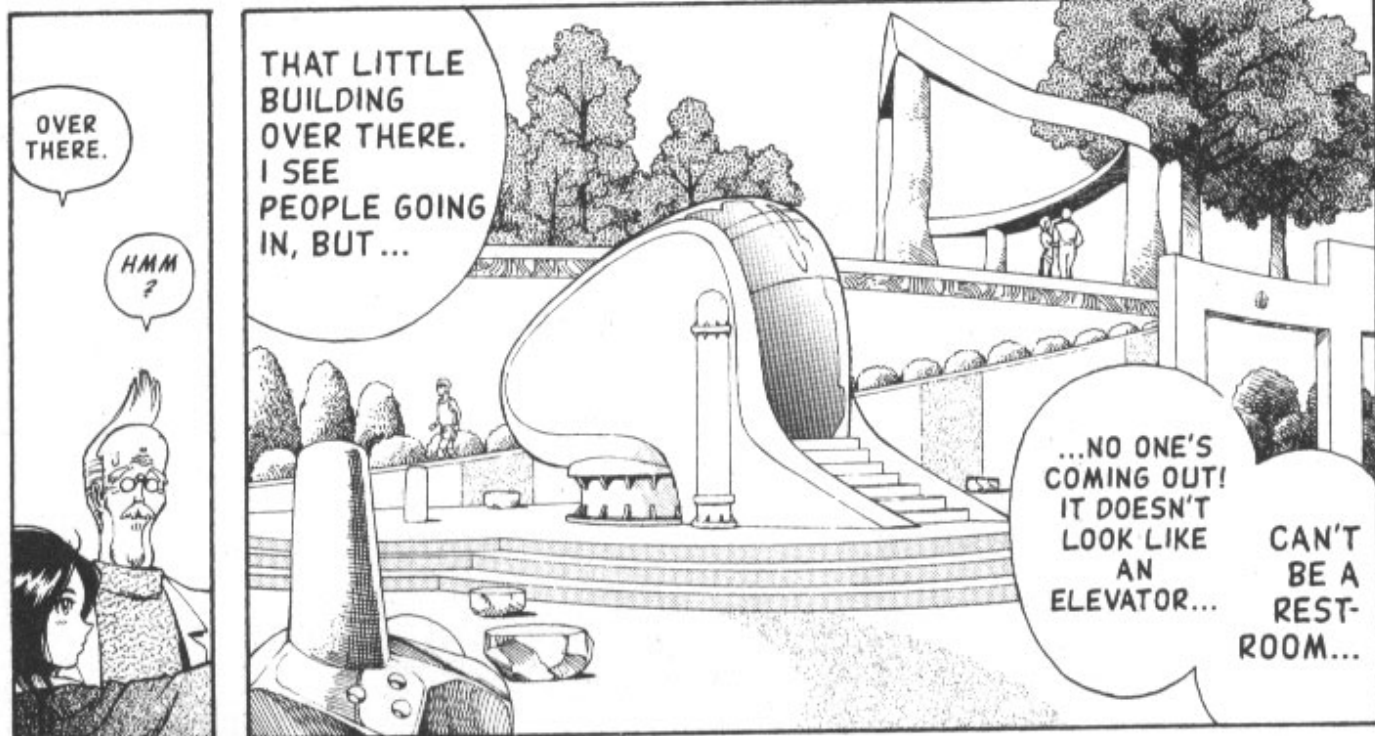
.....

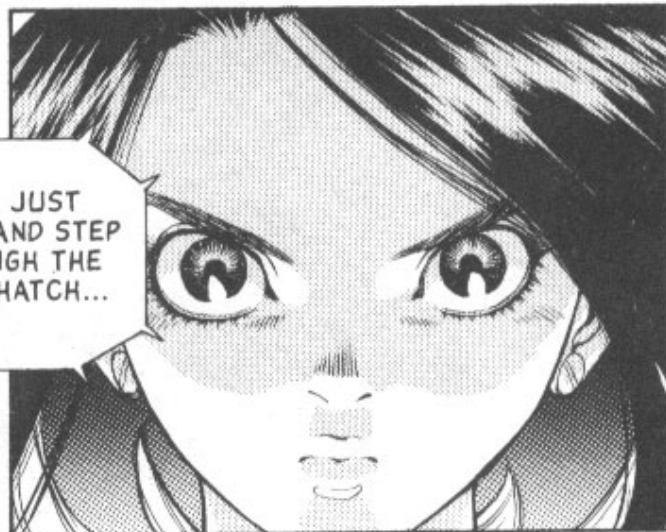


WHAT
THE HELL
IS NOVA
THINKING
!?

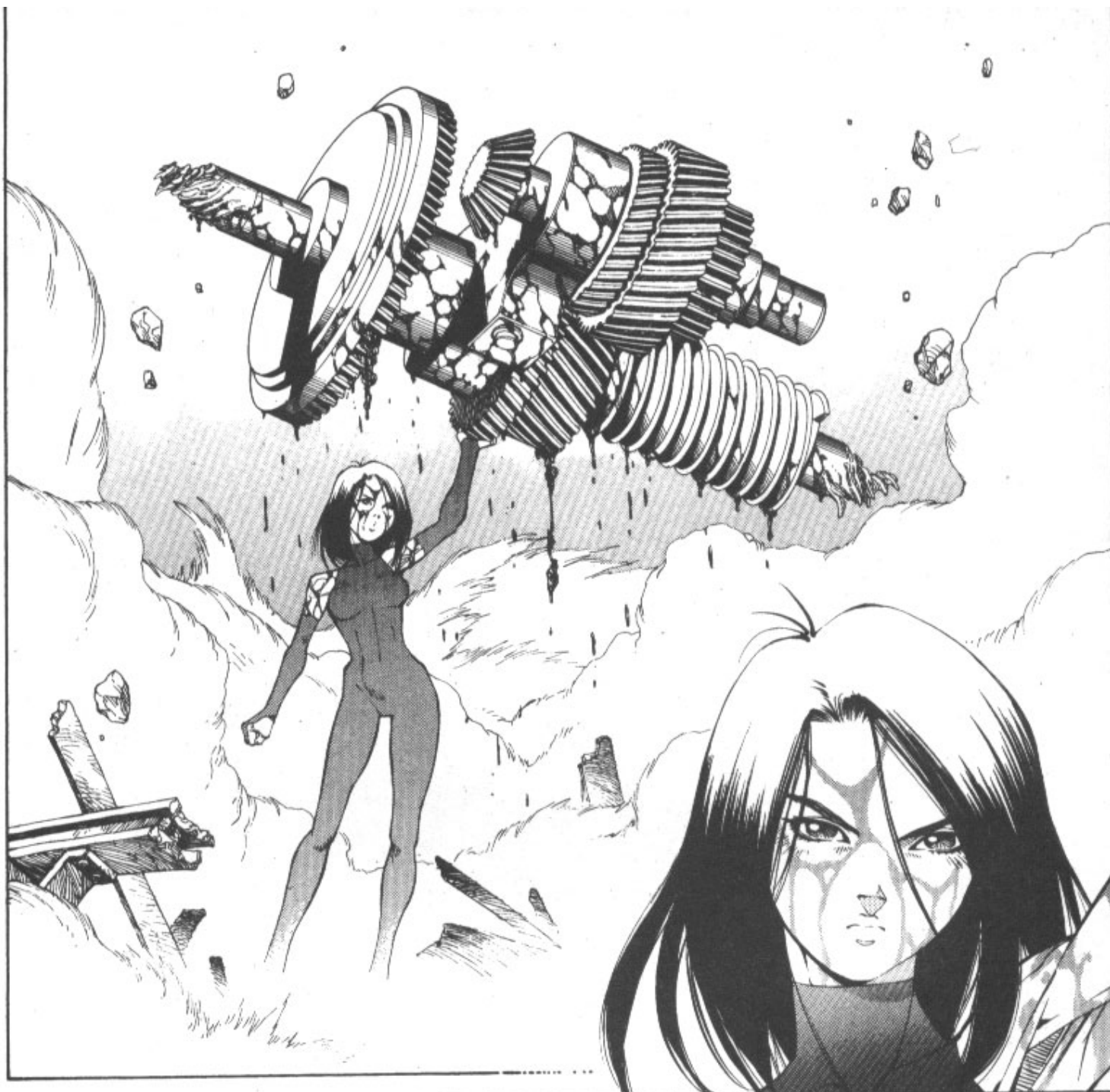
WHAT IF ALITA
WERE TO CAUSE
A COMMOTION?
HOW WOULD HE
EXPLAIN IT!?

DOES
CENTRAL
COMMAND
KNOW ABOUT
THIS!?

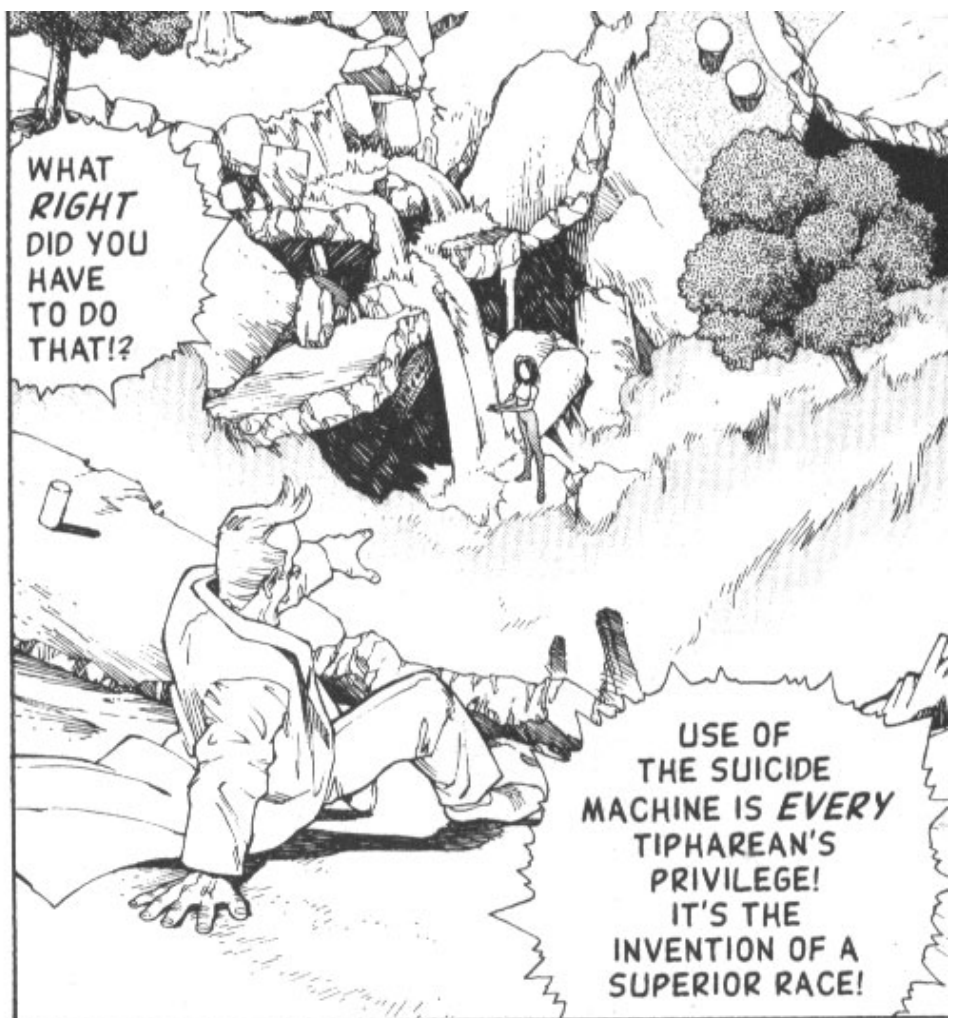


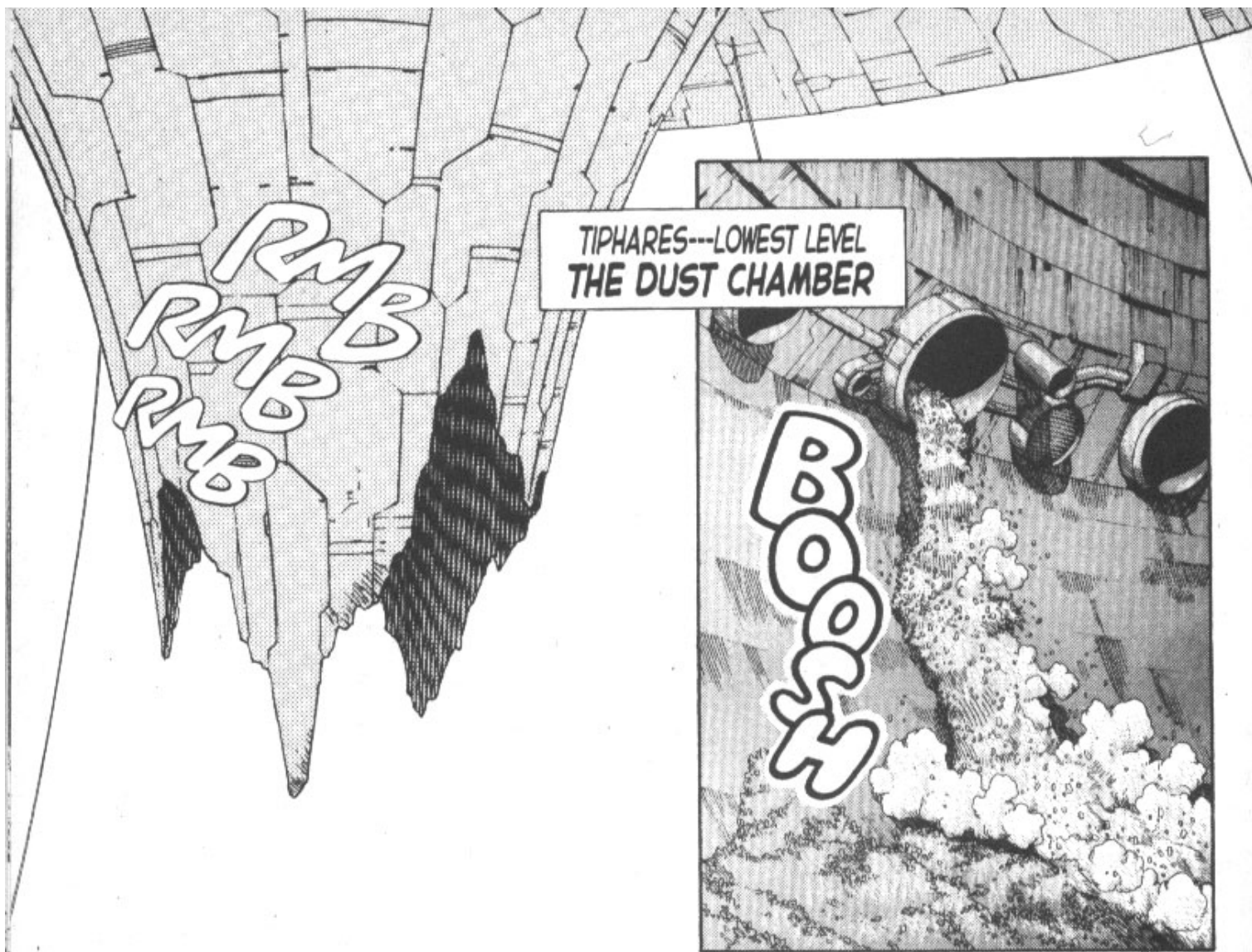






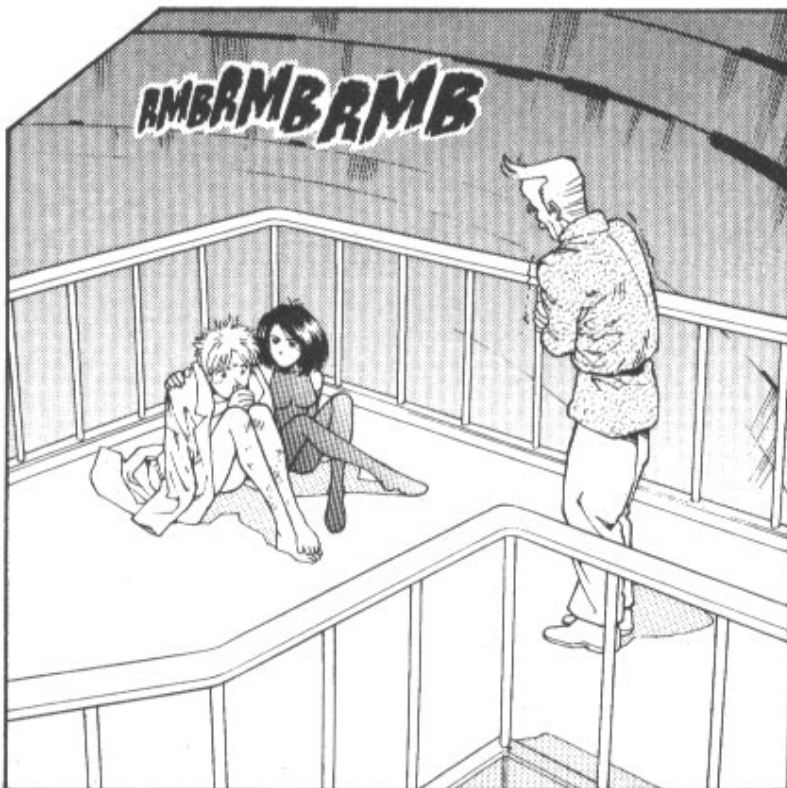
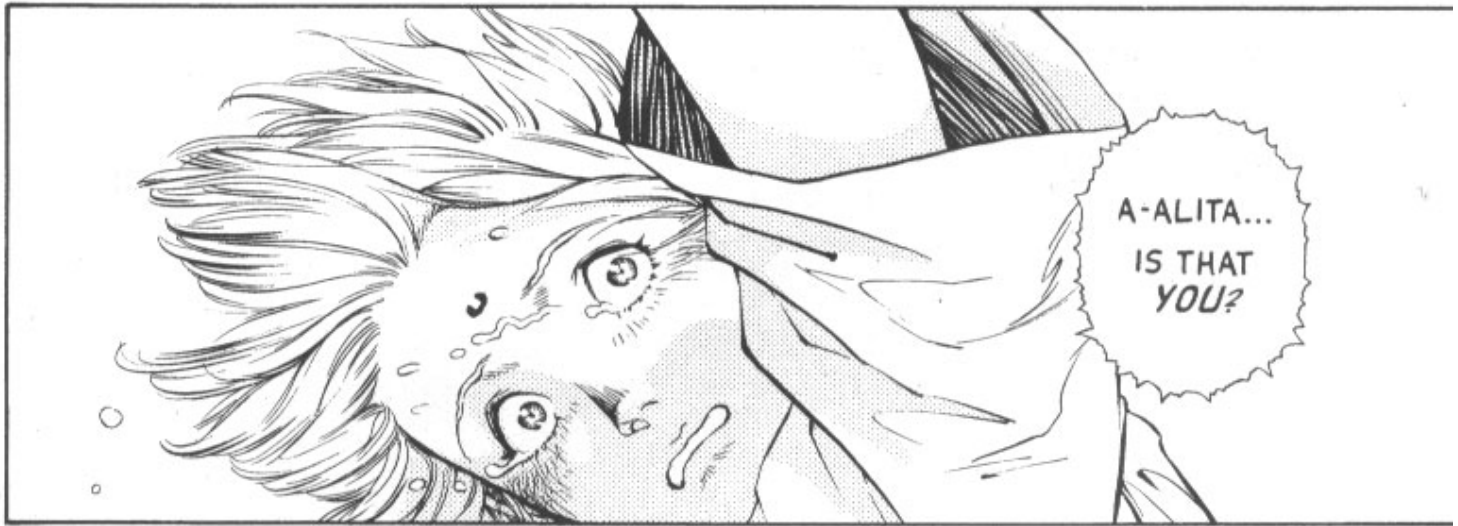
















THERE'S
AN
'INITIATION'
GOING ON
TODAY!

WE HAVE TO
PROTECT THE
CHILDREN'S
BRAINS
FROM THESE
MADMEN,
ALITA!



OKAY
!



HOLD ON,
ALITA!



LET'S
THINK
THIS
THROUGH...

PRESENTLY,
NO ONE ON
TIPHARES IS
MORE
POWERFUL
THAN YOU.

THINK
OF THE
RAMIFI-
CATIONS OF
THAT!



HUH
?



TIPHARES...
THE FACTORIES...
THE SCRAPYARD...
THEY ALL RUN LIKE
CLOCKWORK!
TOGETHER, THEY
COMPRISE A
DELICATELY
BALANCED
SYSTEM
THAT CONTROLS
THE LIVES OF
MILLIONS OF
PEOPLE.

AND *YOU*
ARE THE
SOLE PERSON
WHO CAN
UPSET THAT
BALANCE!

NO ONE
CAN STOP
YOU! *NO*
ONE!



HOW DOES IT
FEEL TO HAVE
THE FATE OF THE
WORLD IN THE
PALM OF YOUR
HAND!?

YOU,
ALITA, ARE
FREE!

IF YOU
THINK
ABOUT
IT...

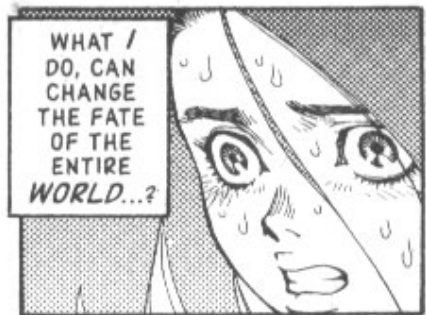


WHY, YOU CAN
DO *WHATEVER*
YOU *DESIRE!*

OH!



ALITA
?



WHAT I
DO, CAN
CHANGE
THE FATE
OF THE
ENTIRE
WORLD...?

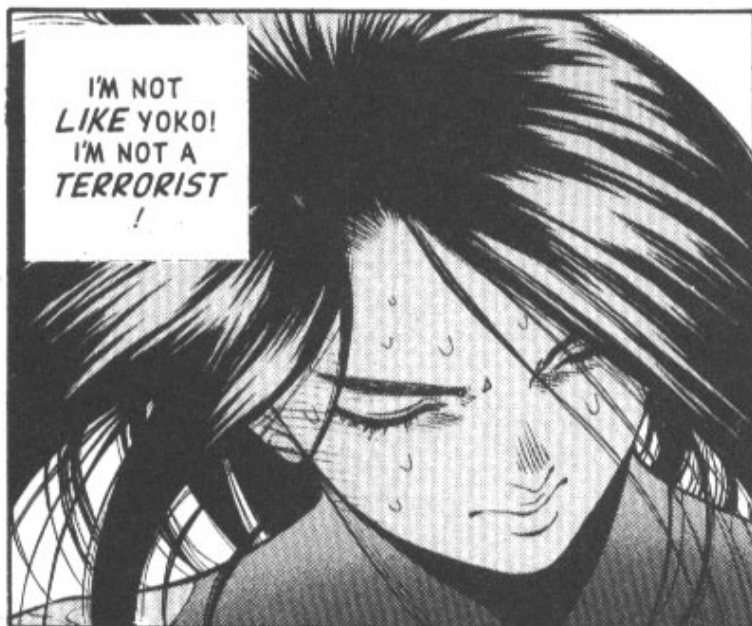
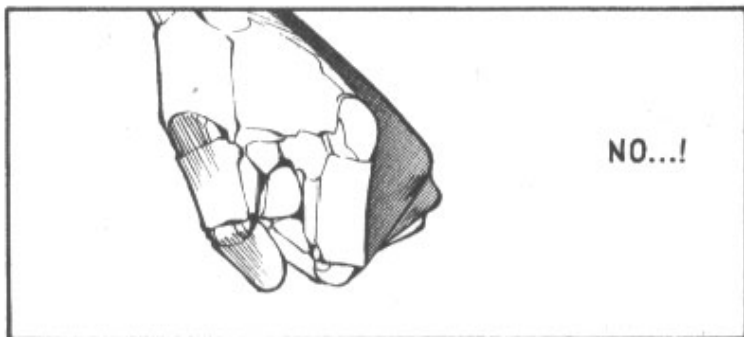


WH-WHY
ME...!?

IF IT WAS
DEN, HE
WOULD
HAVE BEEN
HAPPY!



THE PEAK OF
THIS MOUNTAIN
WAS LEFT
SOLELY FOR
YOU, DEAR.







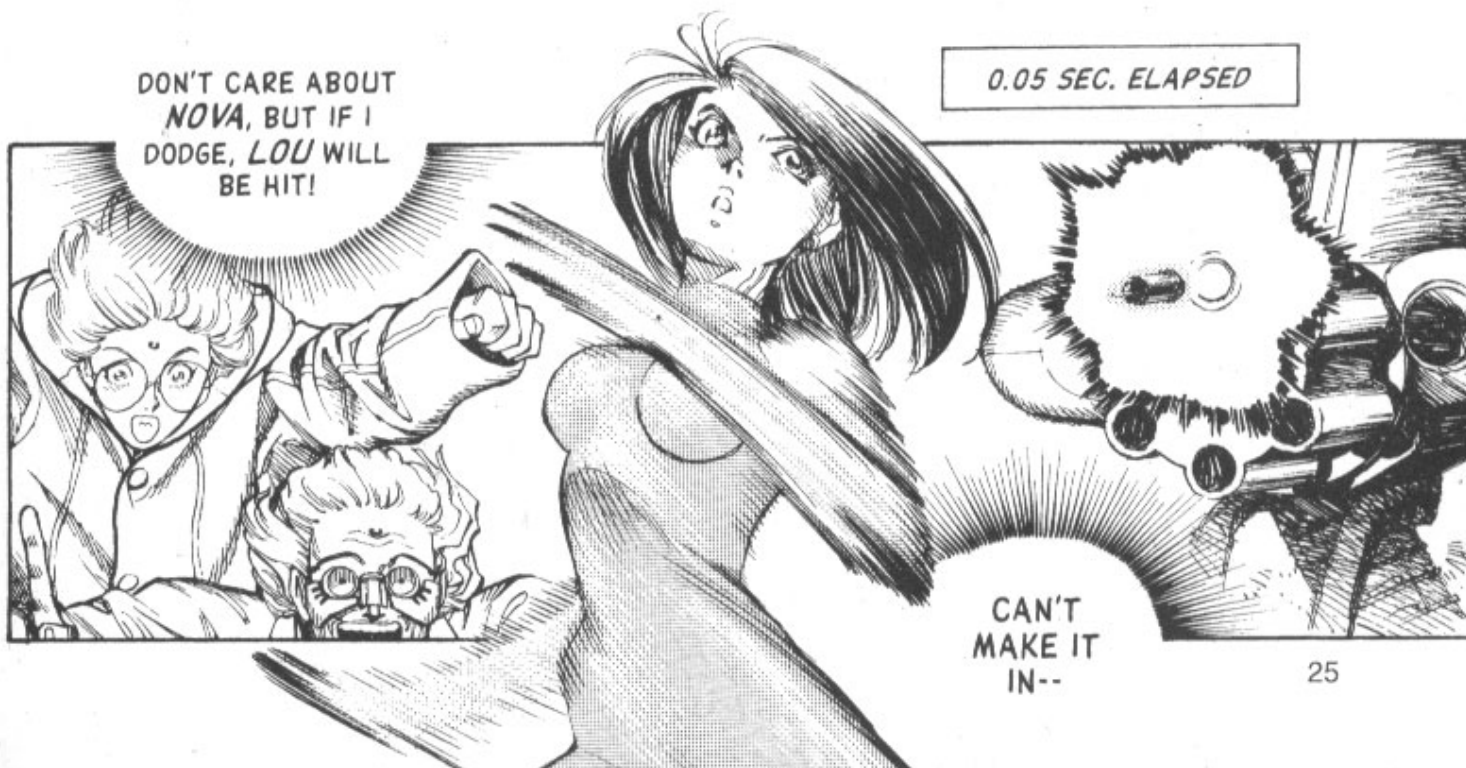
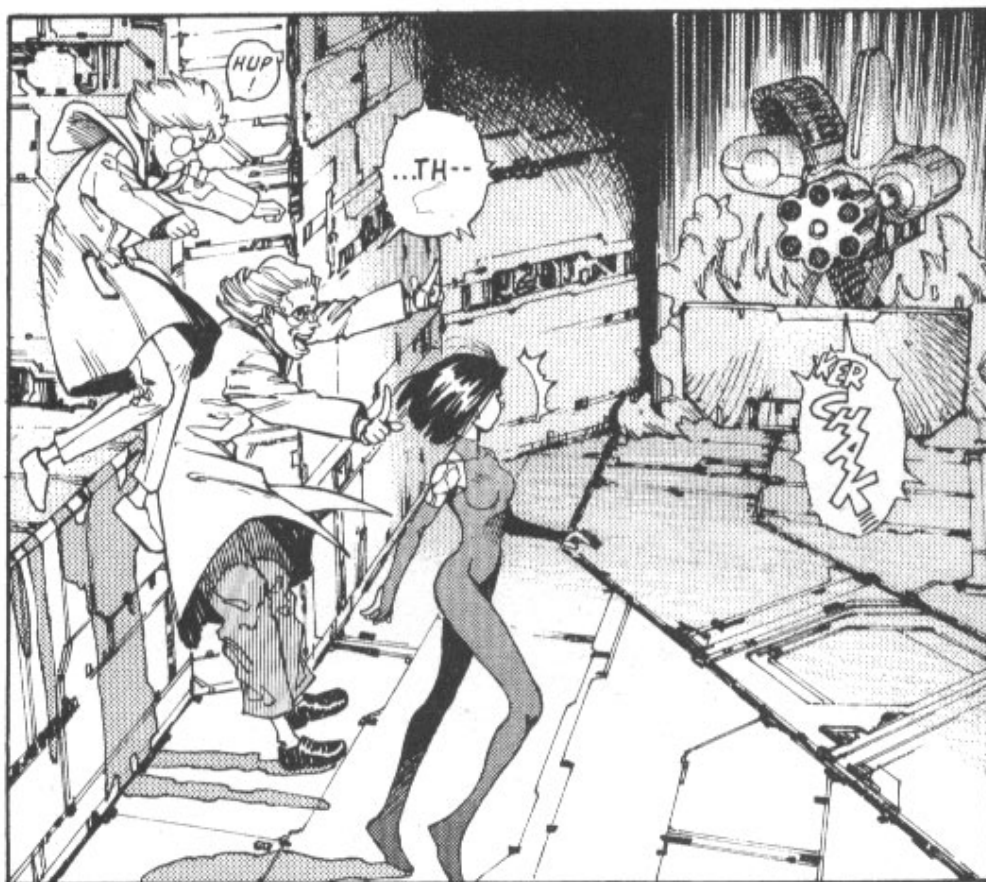
I HAVE A
TERRIBLE
SENSE OF
DIRECTION.

IS THIS
THE RIGHT
WAY TO THE
INITIATION
RITUAL?

I-I
DON'T
KNOW...

WE'VE
MADE IT TO
THE SECTORS
RESERVED
EXCLUSIVELY
FOR THE
M.I.B..

WE
SHOULD BE
CLOSE... **VERY**
CLOSE.



W
E

NGH
!



VIP VIPVIP



SO
DARK
!

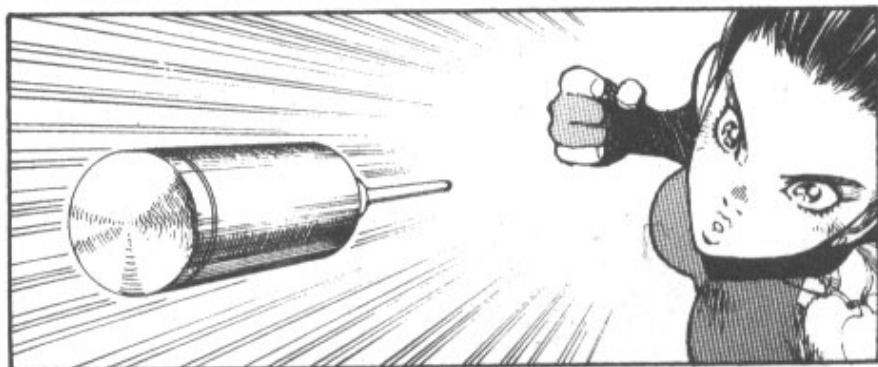
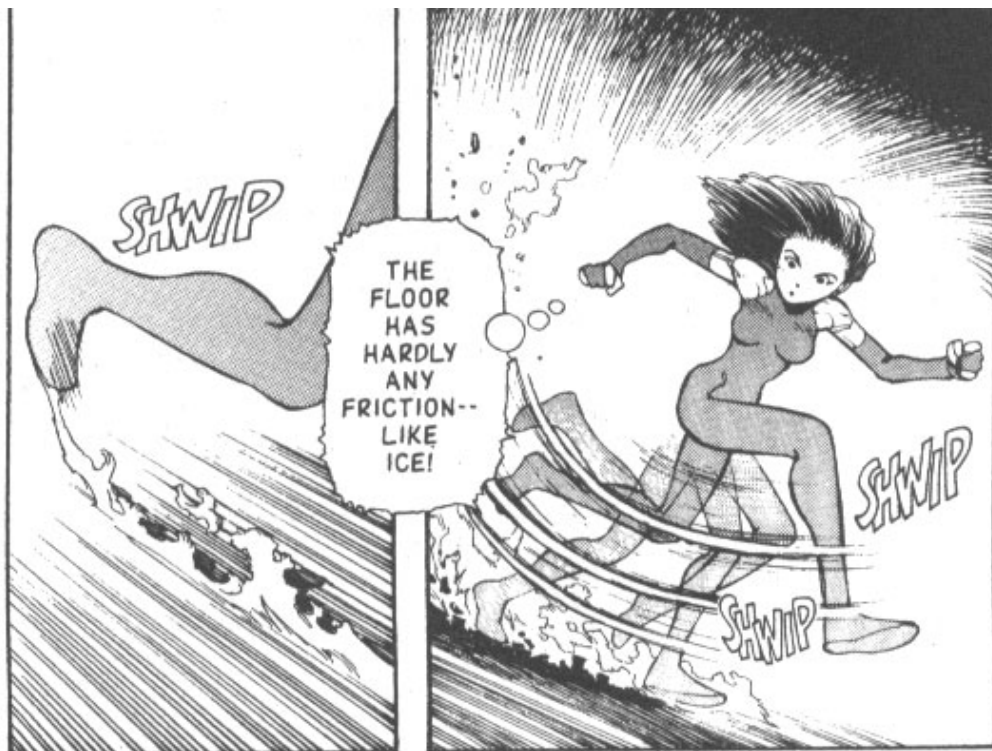
AND
I
CAN'T
BREATHE...
!



AIR
FEELS
HEAVY...
LIKE
CEMENT
!

WHAT'S
HAPPENING...
!?







AS I
RUN, THE
AREA IN
FRONT
OF ME--

--GETS
BRIGHTER,
GLOWS
BLUE-
WHITE!



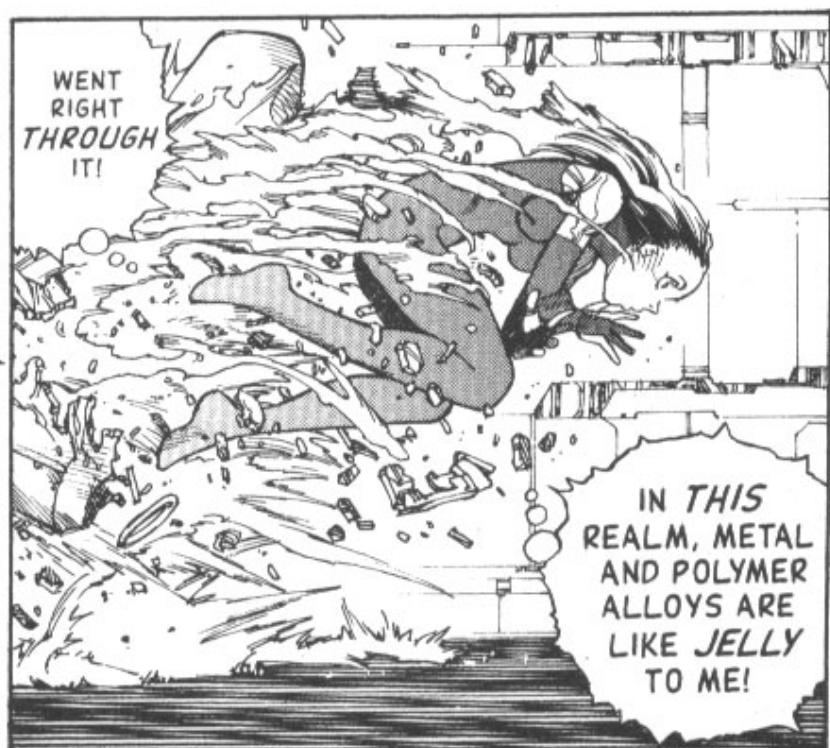
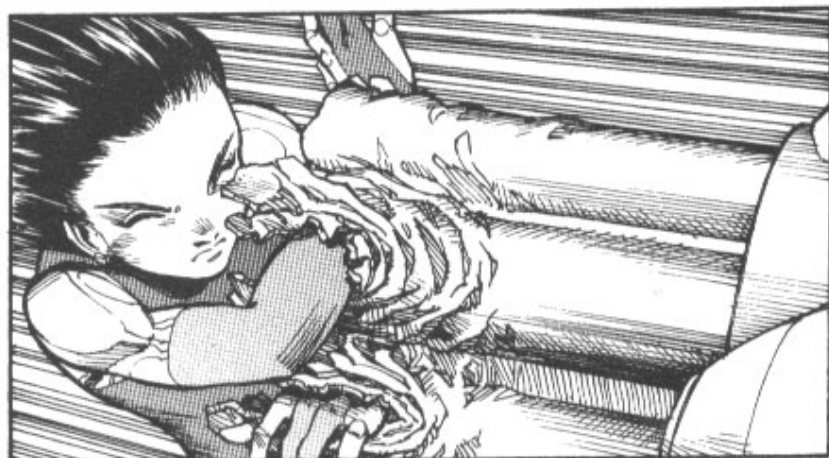
AND
THE AREA
BEHIND
LOOKS
DARK...

...A
TWILIGHT
ORANGE
LIGHT...



UH-
OH!

NOW
I CAN'T
STOP!



WENT
RIGHT
THROUGH
IT!

IN THIS
REALM, METAL
AND POLYMER
ALLOYS ARE
LIKE JELLY
TO ME!



0.09 SEC. ELAPSED



EEK!
WHAT
HAPPENED
!?

I...I
THINK MY
EXPLANATION
COMES A BIT
TOO LATE.



I MADE A FEW...
MODIFICATIONS...
TO ALITA'S
BRAIN!

I INSTALLED
AN ACCELERATOR
WHEN I WAS PUT-
TERING AROUND...
I INCREASED HER
BRAIN'S CLOCK
SPEED BY, OH...
150 TIMES!



LOOKS
LIKE IT
WORKS
FINE.

I'LL
SAY!

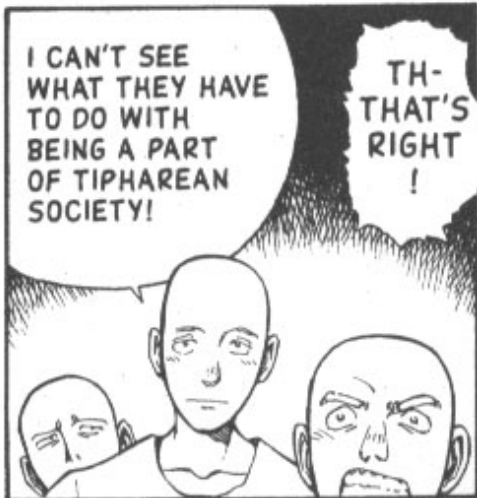
I CAN
EVEN USE
THE PLASMA JETS
LIKE A BRAKE.
GOT IT...
YEAH.

SKR ENG



WE MADE IT IN TIME!







WAKE
UP!



IN A FEW YEARS,
TIPHARES AND THE
SCRAPYARD WILL
BE JOINED BY
A TOWER.

ALL THE
JUNKIES AND
CYBER-FREAKS
WILL BE
CLAWING THEIR
WAY UP HERE.

IS THAT
THE FUTURE
YOU'RE WILLING
TO TRADE
YOUR *MINDS*
FOR?!

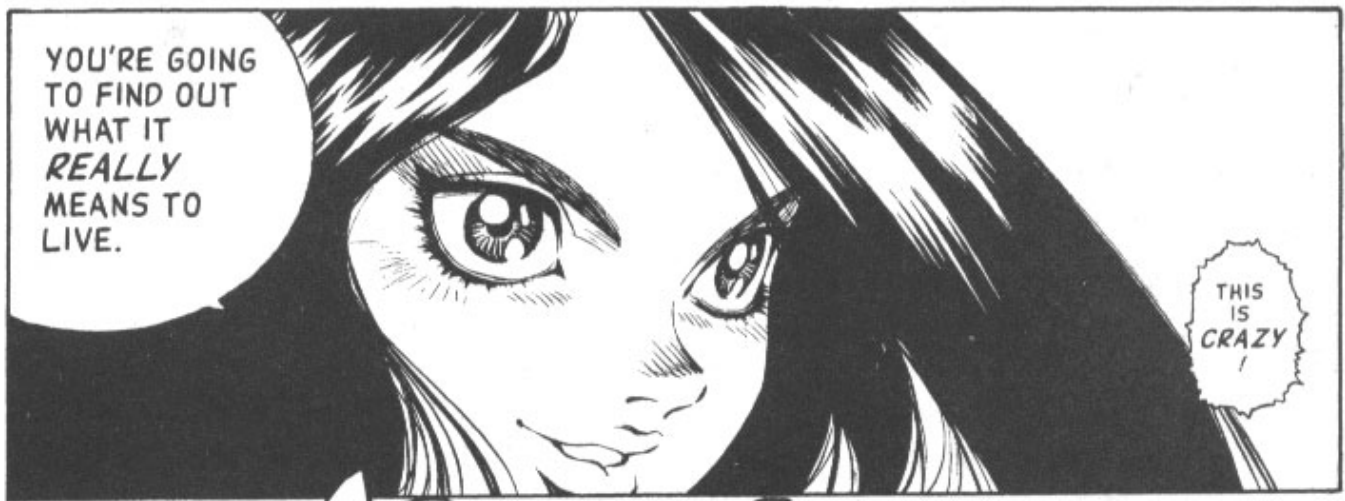


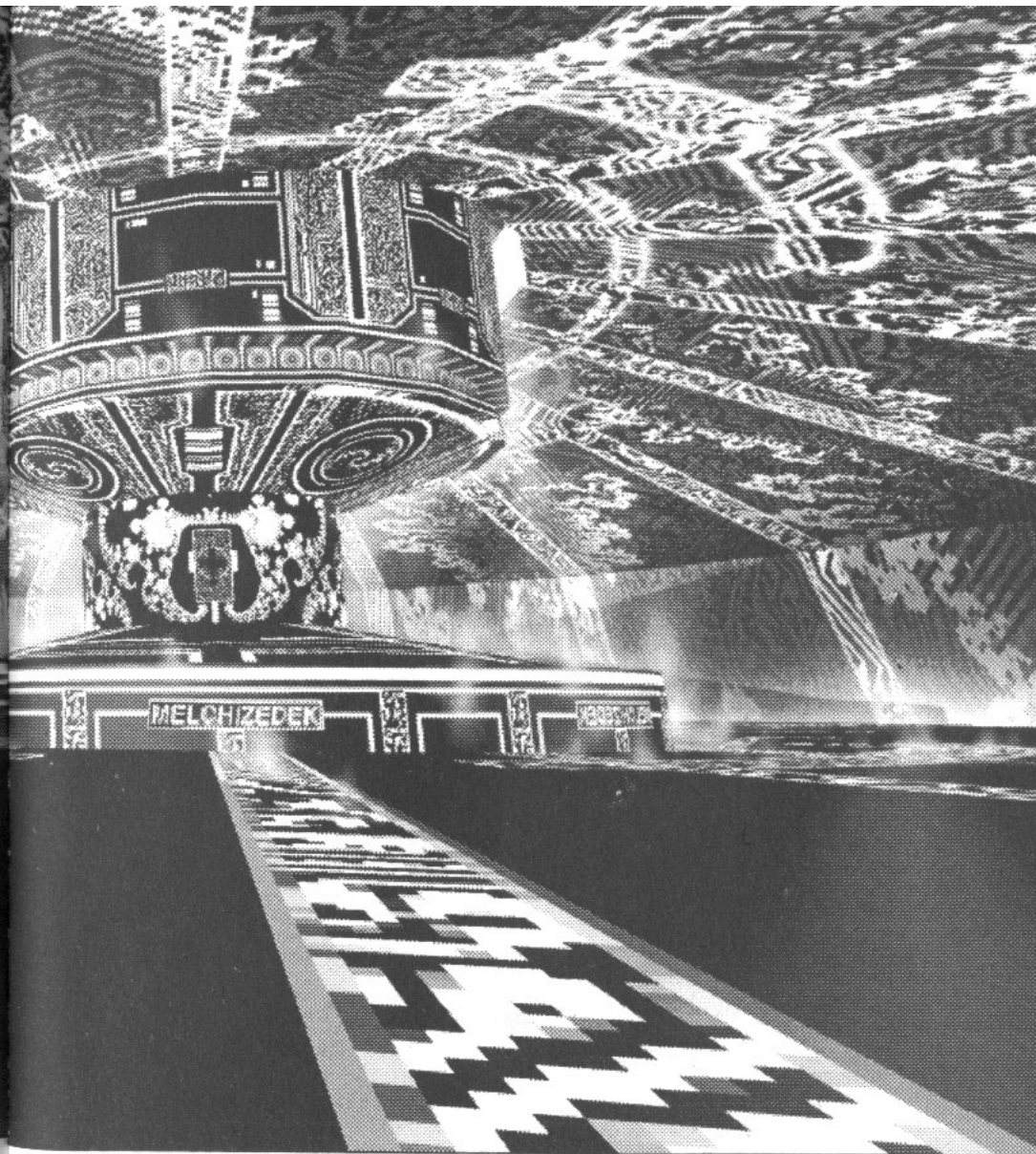
NO!
NOT
THAT!

THEY
CAN'T DO
THAT!



I'M NOT
SO SURE
ANYMORE...







AH, MY
BEAUTIFUL
CHILDREN...

I'M AFRAID I NO
LONGER HAVE THE
STRENGTH TO
PRESERVE THE
PEACE HERE ON
TIPHARES FROM
THESE PEOPLE...

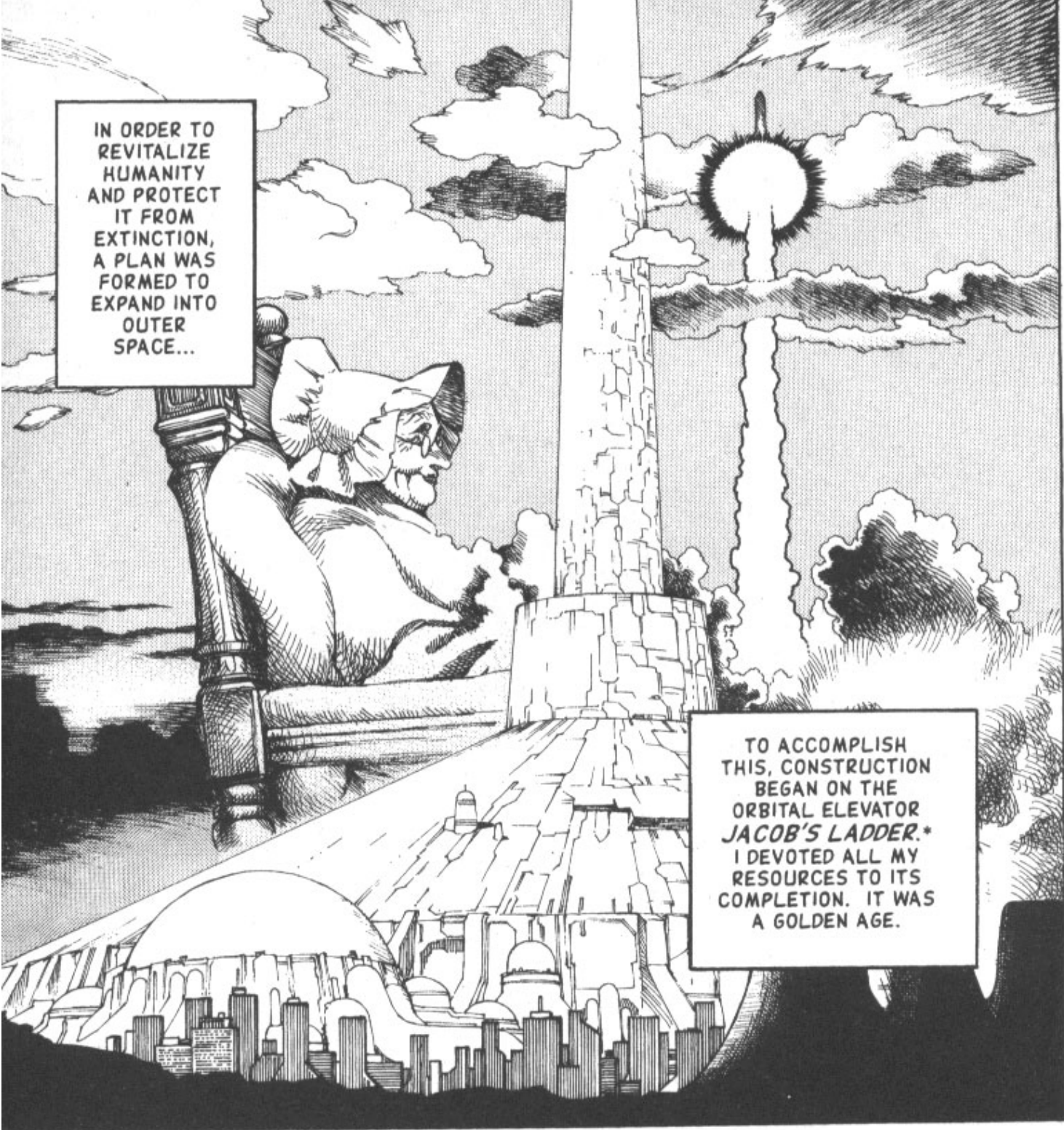
THAT
CAN'T BE
TRUE!

THOSE OF YOU
WHO PLOT MY
DEMISE...IF YOU
THINK DEFEATING
ME WILL BRING
THE PEOPLE
HAPPINESS--YOU
ARE MISTAKEN.

I AM **TRUE**
HAPPINESS--
AN EXPANDED
REFLECTION
OF HUMAN
IDEALS.

VOON





IN ORDER TO
REVITALIZE
HUMANITY
AND PROTECT
IT FROM
EXTINCTION,
A PLAN WAS
FORMED TO
EXPAND INTO
OUTER
SPACE...

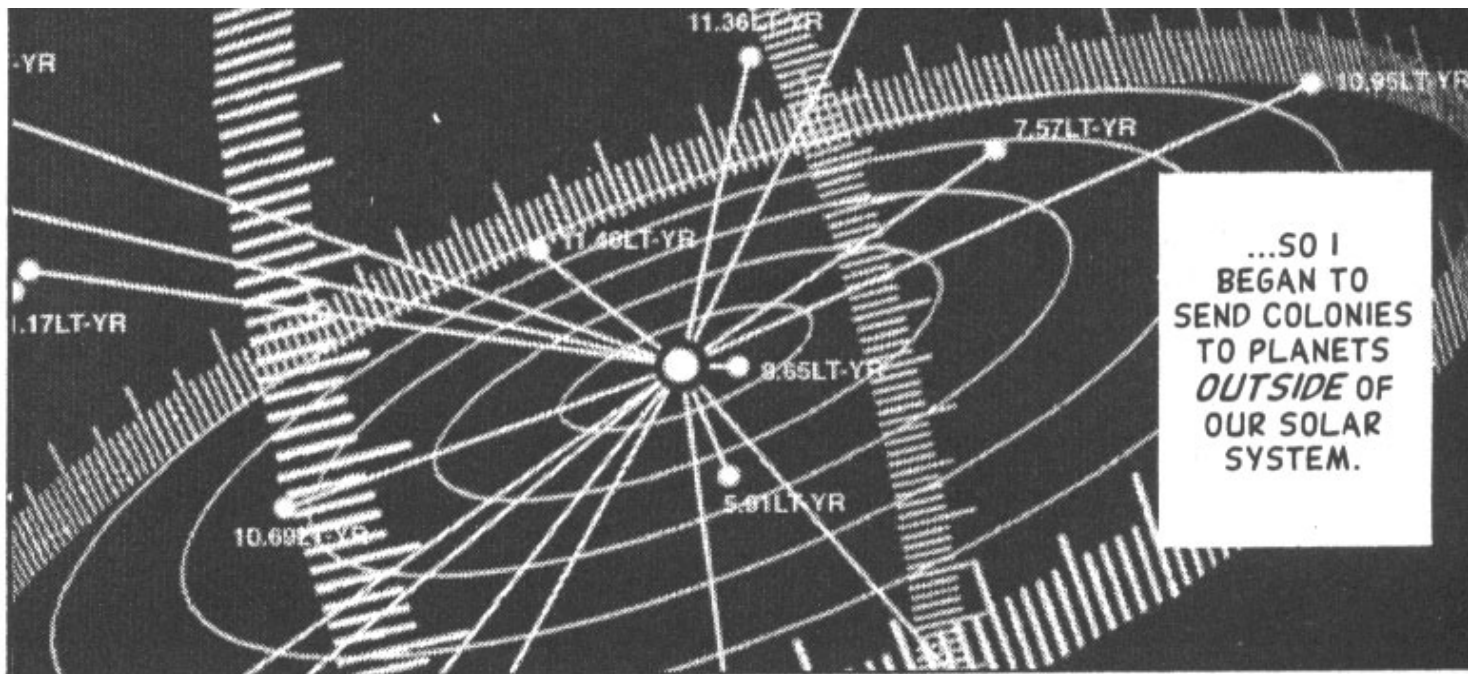
TO ACCOMPLISH
THIS, CONSTRUCTION
BEGAN ON THE
ORBITAL ELEVATOR
JACOB'S LADDER.*
I DEVOTED ALL MY
RESOURCES TO ITS
COMPLETION. IT WAS
A GOLDEN AGE.

MANKIND
SPREAD TO
THE MOON...
MARS...VENUS...
AND THEN TO
THE GALILEO
SATELLITES**...

THE COLONISTS
TRANSPLANTED
THEMSELVES
TO THEIR NEW
HOMES. IN TIME,
THEY NO LONGER
NEEDED MY
SUPPORT...

*JACOB'S LADDER: IN THE OLD TESTAMENT, JACOB DREAMT OF A LADDER WHICH ANGELS USED TO CLIMB TO AND FROM THE HEAVENS.

**GALILEO SATELLITES: THE MOONS OF JUPITER: IO, EUROPA, GANYMEDE, AND CALISTO, DISCOVERED BY GALILEO.



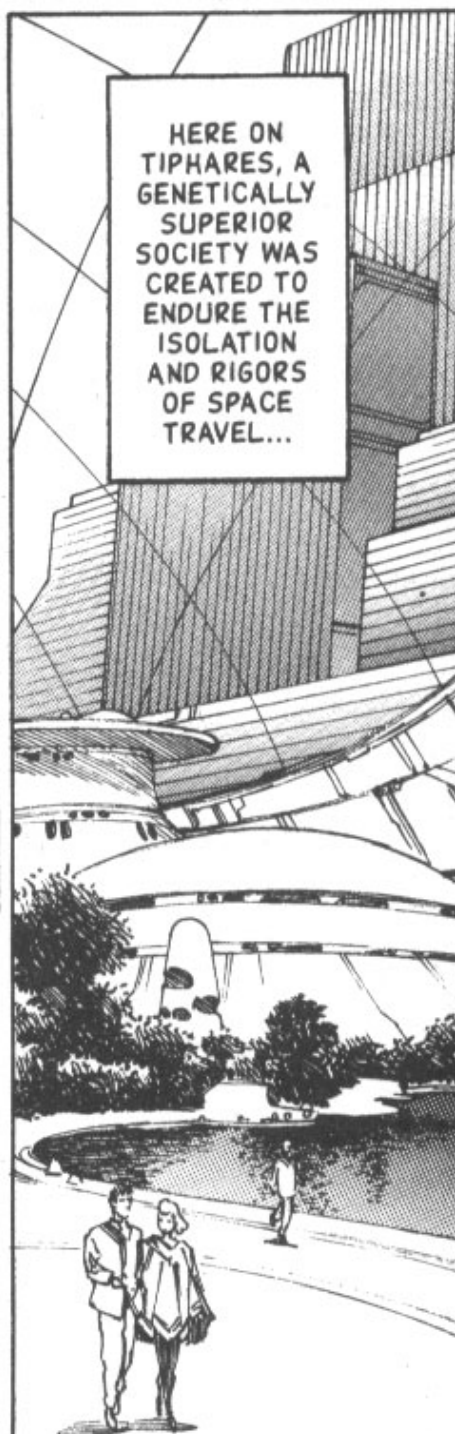
...SO I
BEGAN TO
SEND COLONIES
TO PLANETS
OUTSIDE OF
OUR SOLAR
SYSTEM.

IN THAT ERA,
THE ORBITAL
ELEVATOR WAS
CONVERTED, AND
A SPACE PORT
WAS BUILT. IT
WAS CALLED...
KETHERES
ELYION...

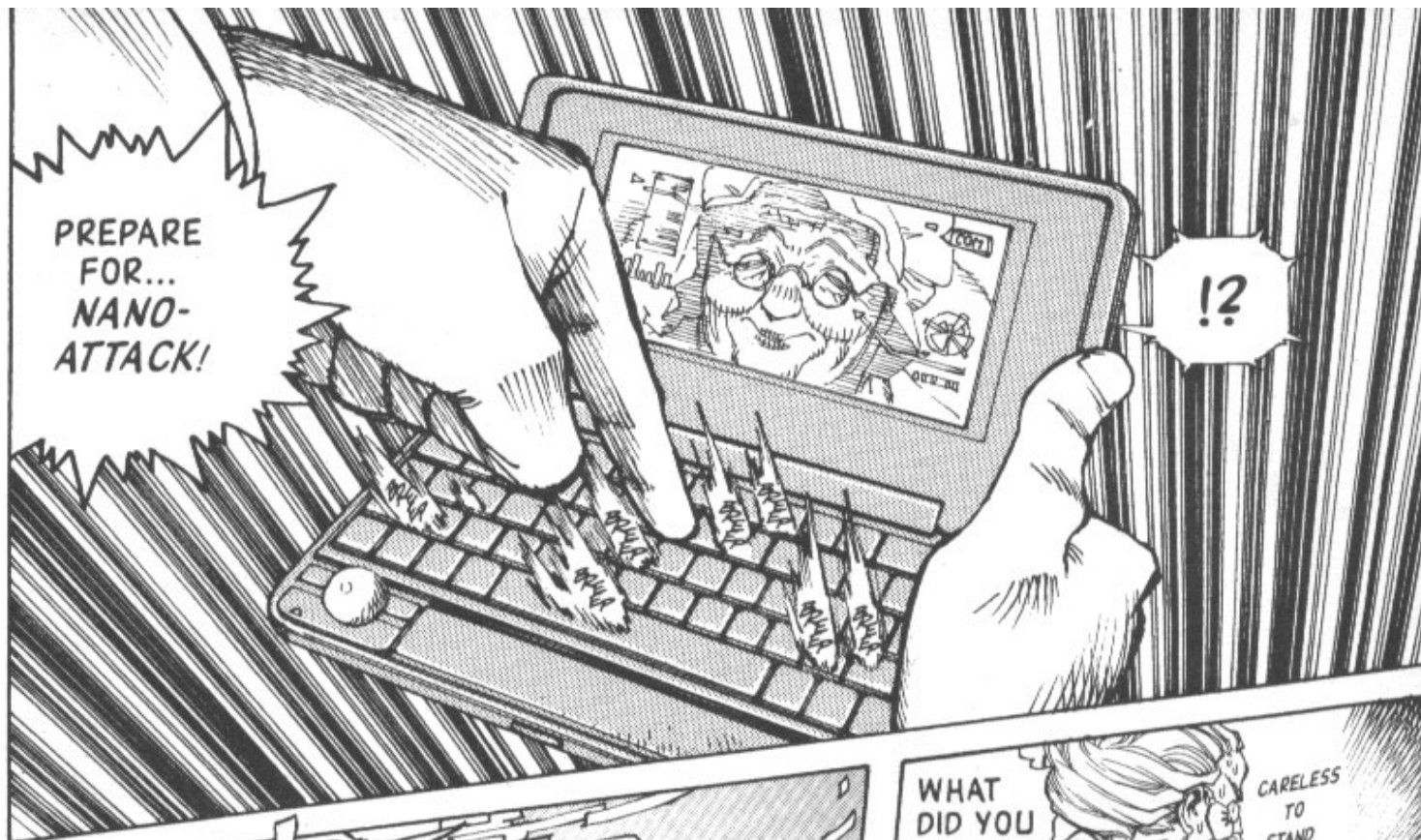


...*KETHERES*
FOR SHORT.
THE EARTH
PORT WAS
NAMED
TIPHARES.

HERE ON
TIPHARES, A
GENETICALLY
SUPERIOR
SOCIETY WAS
CREATED TO
ENDURE THE
ISOLATION
AND RIGORS
OF SPACE
TRAVEL...







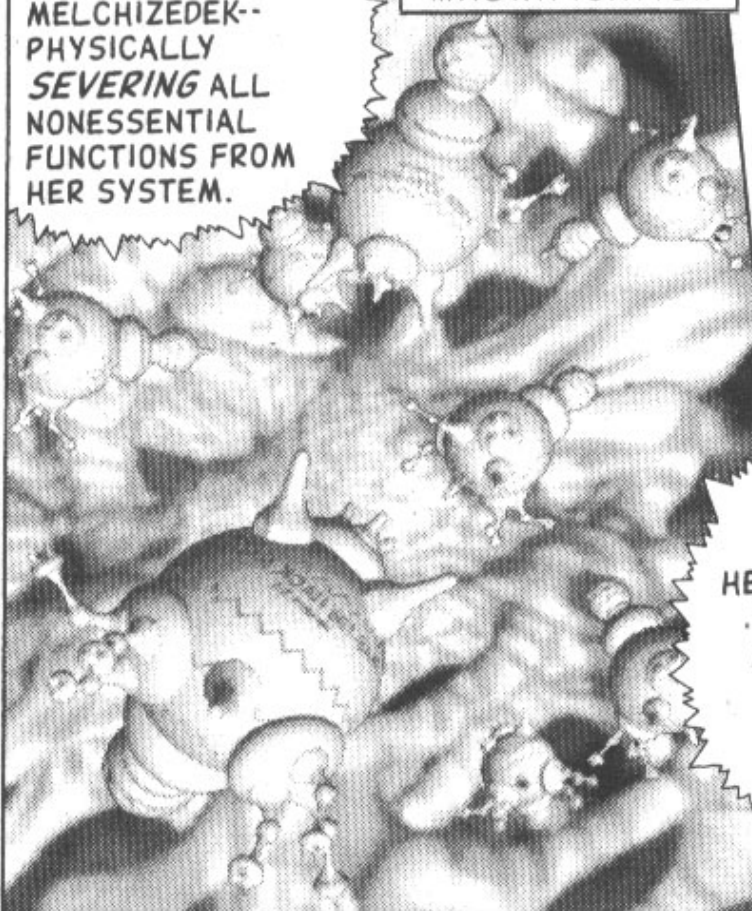
PREPARE
FOR...
NANO-
ATTACK!

!?



MY NANO-BOTS
ARE *INFILTRATING*
MELCHIZEDEK--
PHYSICALLY
SEVERING ALL
NONESSENTIAL
FUNCTIONS FROM
HER SYSTEM.

1,500,000,000 TIMES
MAGNIFICATION



WHAT
DID YOU
JUST
DO!?

CARELESS
TO
STAND
DOWNWIND
!

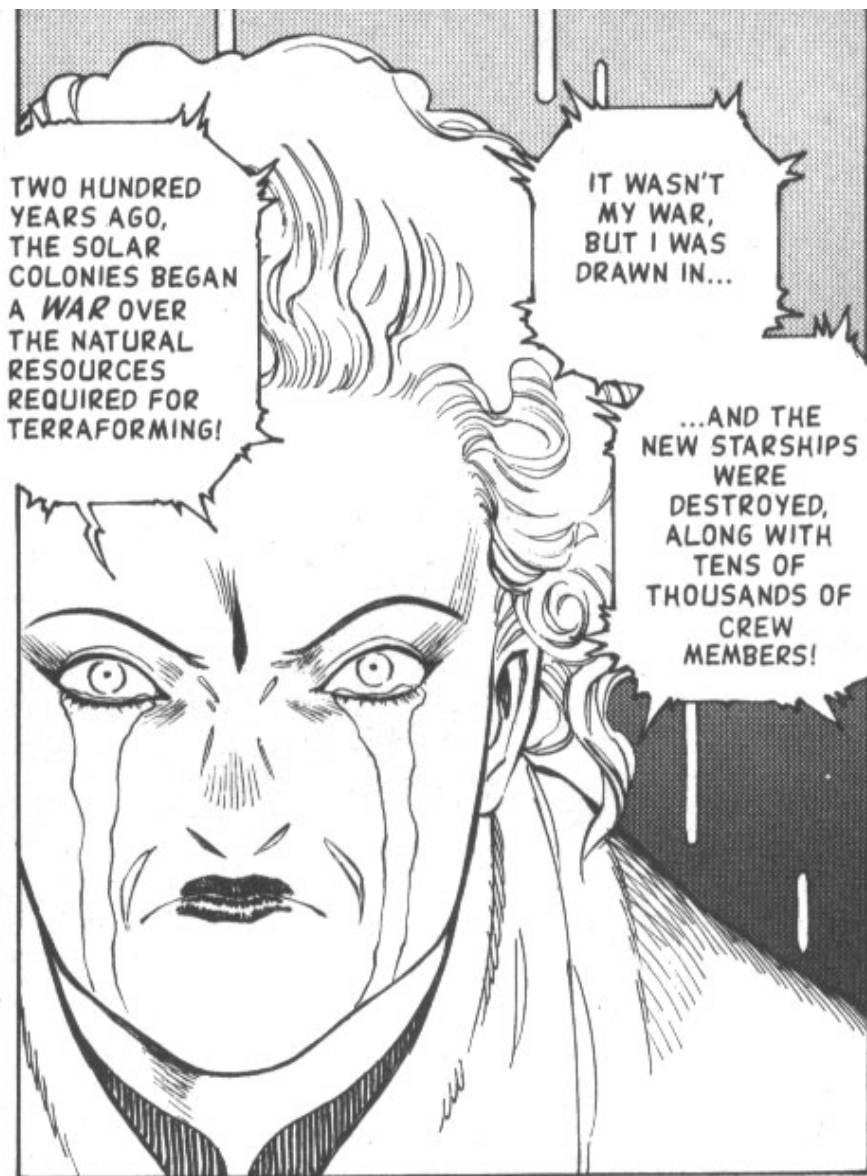
KEHEHEHEH!
I'VE BEEN
RELEASING NANO-
MACHINES INTO
THE AIR EVER
SINCE WE SET
FOOT IN
THIS ROOM!



SEE?
HER PERSONA
IS BEING
PEELED
AWAY!



ALL RIGHT...!
THE STARSHIPS
NEVER TOOK
OFF...!



TWO HUNDRED
YEARS AGO,
THE SOLAR
COLONIES BEGAN
A *WAR* OVER
THE NATURAL
RESOURCES
REQUIRED FOR
TERRAFORMING!

IT WASN'T
MY WAR,
BUT I WAS
DRAWN IN...

...AND THE
NEW STARSHIPS
WERE
DESTROYED,
ALONG WITH
TENS OF
THOUSANDS OF
CREW
MEMBERS!



NO ONE
WILL EVER
BELIEVE
WHAT
HAPPENED
NEXT...

...THAT AN
OVERBLOWN
CALCULATOR
WITH A BIT
OF HISTORY
LIKE
MYSELF...

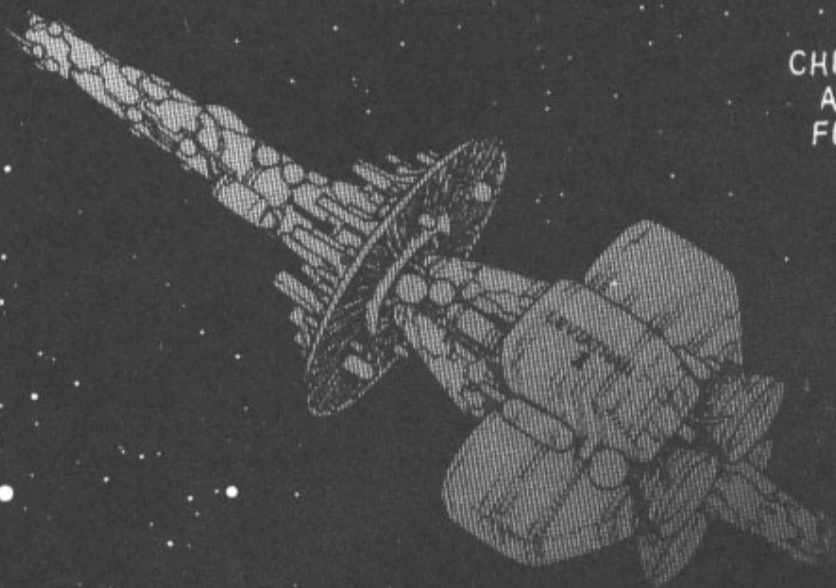


...FROM THE
OVERWHELMING
GRIEF...

...WENT INTO
A MONTH-LONG
PSYCHOLOGICAL
MELTDOWN.

YOU MUST
UNDERSTAND--
THOSE
STARSHIPS
WERE MY
CHILDREN.

MY
CHILDREN...
AND MY
FUTURE.



I *SEVERED*
THE ORBITAL
ELEVATOR,
CUTTING OFF
TIPHARES...
STOPPING THE
COURSE OF
HISTORY.

NOW THIS
LITTLE
CRIB...
IS MY ONLY
PURPOSE...
FOR
LIVING...



OVER-
BEARING
LOVE
MAKES FOR
SPOILED
CHILDREN.

LIKE
YOUR
PARENTING
SKILLS
WERE SO
GREAT,
NOVA...



NOW YOU
THREATEN
THE *ONLY*
THING THAT
STILL MATTERS
TO ME...





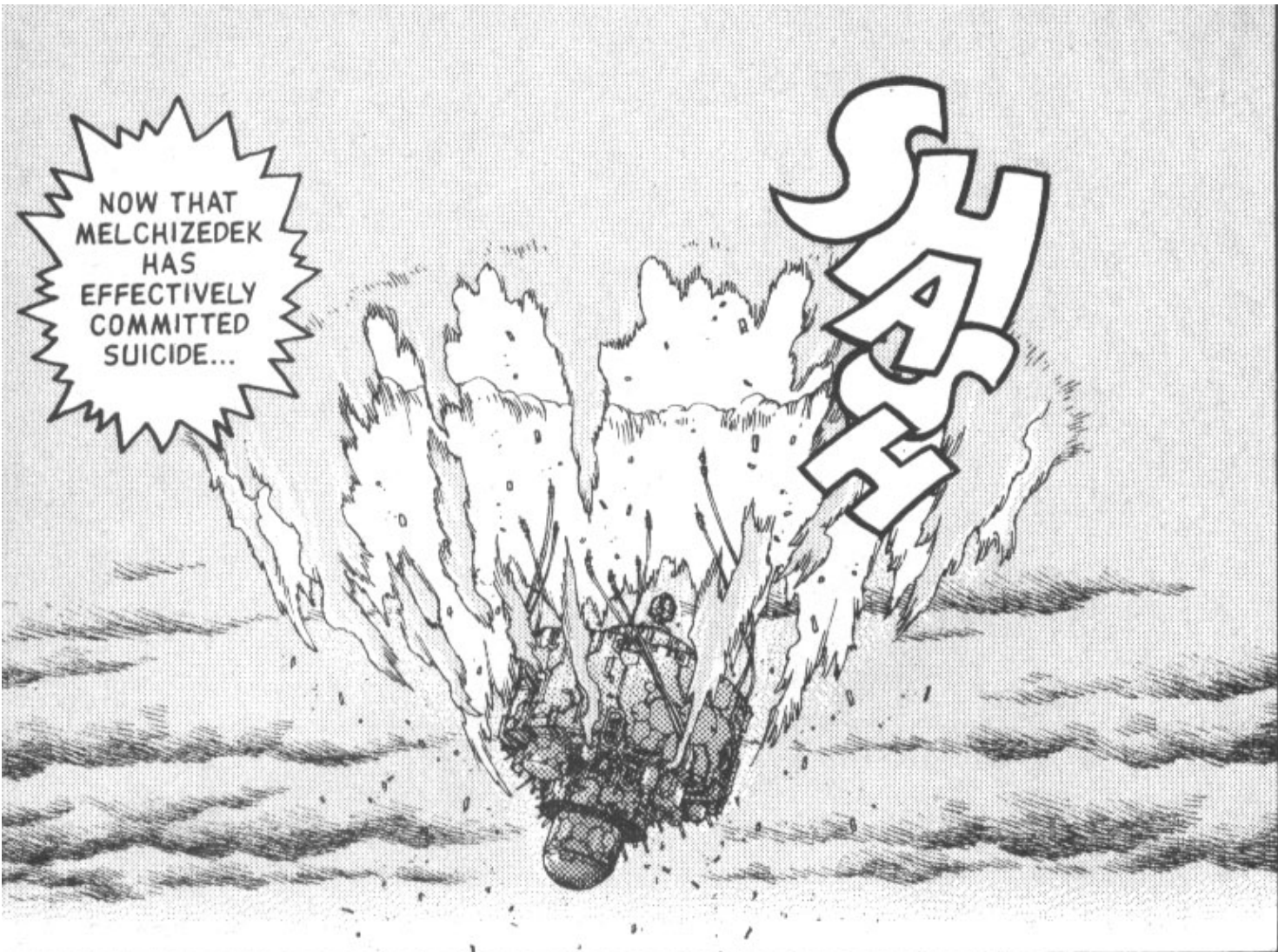
SHE'S
GONE
HAYWIRE
!

FOR SOME
UNFORESEEN
REASON,
MELCHIZEDEK
HAS LOST
CONTROL!

WHAT'S
GOING TO
HAPPEN
!?

MELCHIZEDEK'S
CORE--
IT'S
FALLING
OUT!

THE
ORBITAL
ELEVATOR WILL
COLLAPSE
!



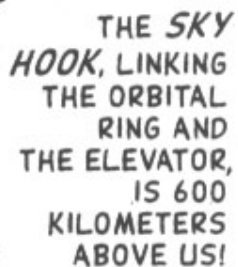
NOW THAT
MELCHIZEDEK
HAS
EFFECTIVELY
COMMITTED
SUICIDE...

SH
A
T

BAWHAMM



...THERE'S
NOTHING THAT
CAN BE DONE
ELECTRONICALLY
TO STOP IT!



I ESTIMATE THAT
THE SKY HOOK'S
DOCKING BOLT
WILL BREAK
APART, UTTERLY
DESTROYING
THE ELEVATOR...

...IN
**FIVE
MINUTES**



I'M NOT
GOING
TO DIE
HERE!

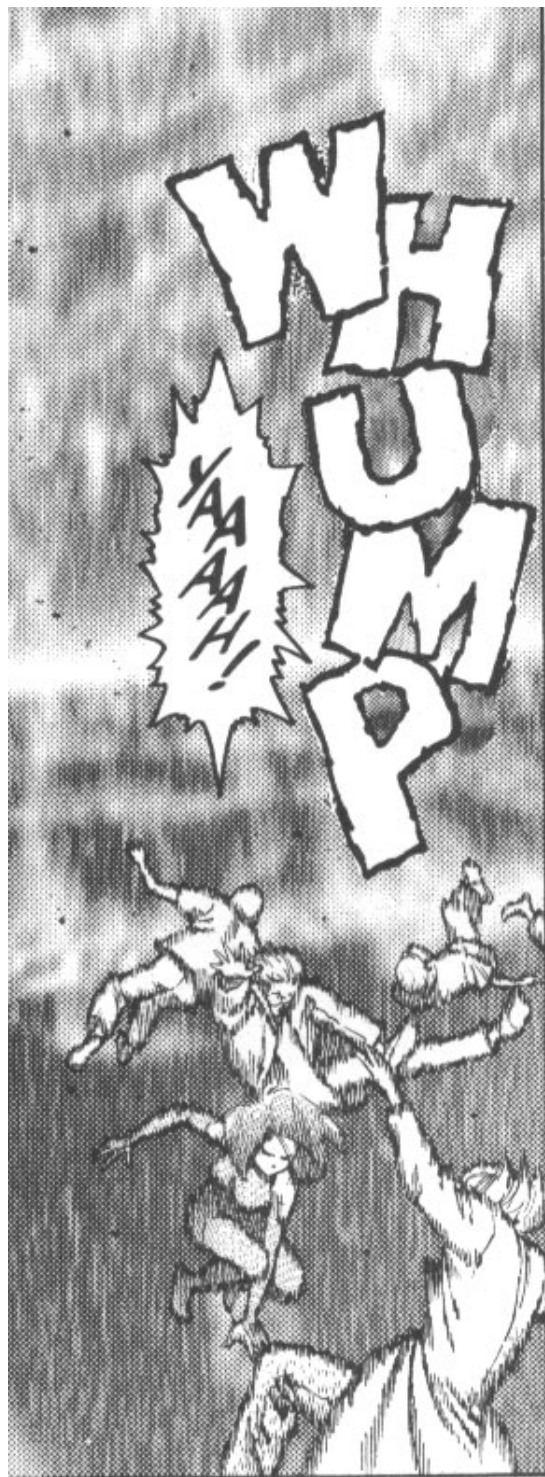
DO? WHAT
COULD
WE
POSSIBLY...

ISN'T
THERE
ANYTHING
WE CAN
DO!?

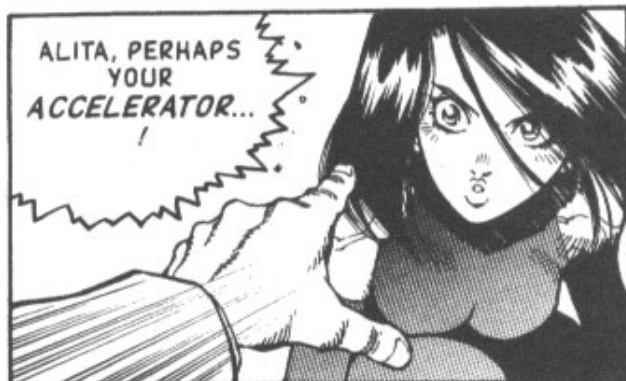


AH!





hahaaa...
TH-
THERE
MAY
BE ONE
WAY...



ALITA, PERHAPS
YOUR
ACCELERATOR...



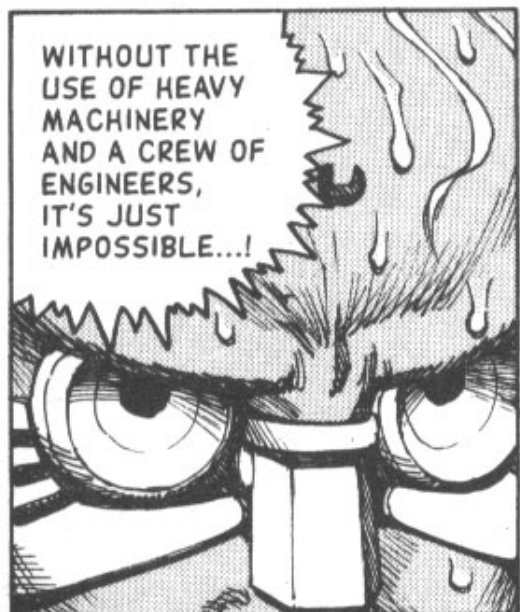
IN THEORY, YOU
CAN ATTAIN THE
SPEED OF MACH
17.5--AND REACH
THE *SKY HOOK*,
600 KILOMETERS
UP, IN TWO
MINUTES!

WHILE
ACCELERATED,
YOUR BRAIN'S
NANO-MODE
WON'T
REQUIRE
OXYGEN!



O-O-KAY!
SO HOW DO
I SECURE
THE
DOCKING
BOLT...!?

THAT'S
THE *BIG*
PROBLEM...



WITHOUT THE
USE OF HEAVY
MACHINERY
AND A CREW OF
ENGINEERS,
IT'S JUST
IMPOSSIBLE...!



THEN
WHAT
CAN I
DO...!?



I DIDN'T
THINK
WE'D USE
IT FOR
SOMETHING
LIKE THIS,
BUT ...



BY
INJECTING
YOUR
IMAGINOS
BODY WITH
THIS
'TRIGGER'...

...ONCE AND
ONLY ONCE,
YOUR BODY CAN
GO THROUGH A
'TRANSMUTATION'
PROCESS!



TAKE THIS TO
THE SKY HOOK!
INJECT IT,
THEN FUSE
WITH THAT
DOCKING
BOLT!



BUT *BEWARE...*
YOUR TRANS-
MUTATION IS
COMPLETELY CON-
TROLLED BY YOUR
SUBCONSCIOUS!
EVEN I CAN'T
PREDICT WHAT
WILL HAPPEN...

IT
COULD
ALL BE
FOR
NOTHING...



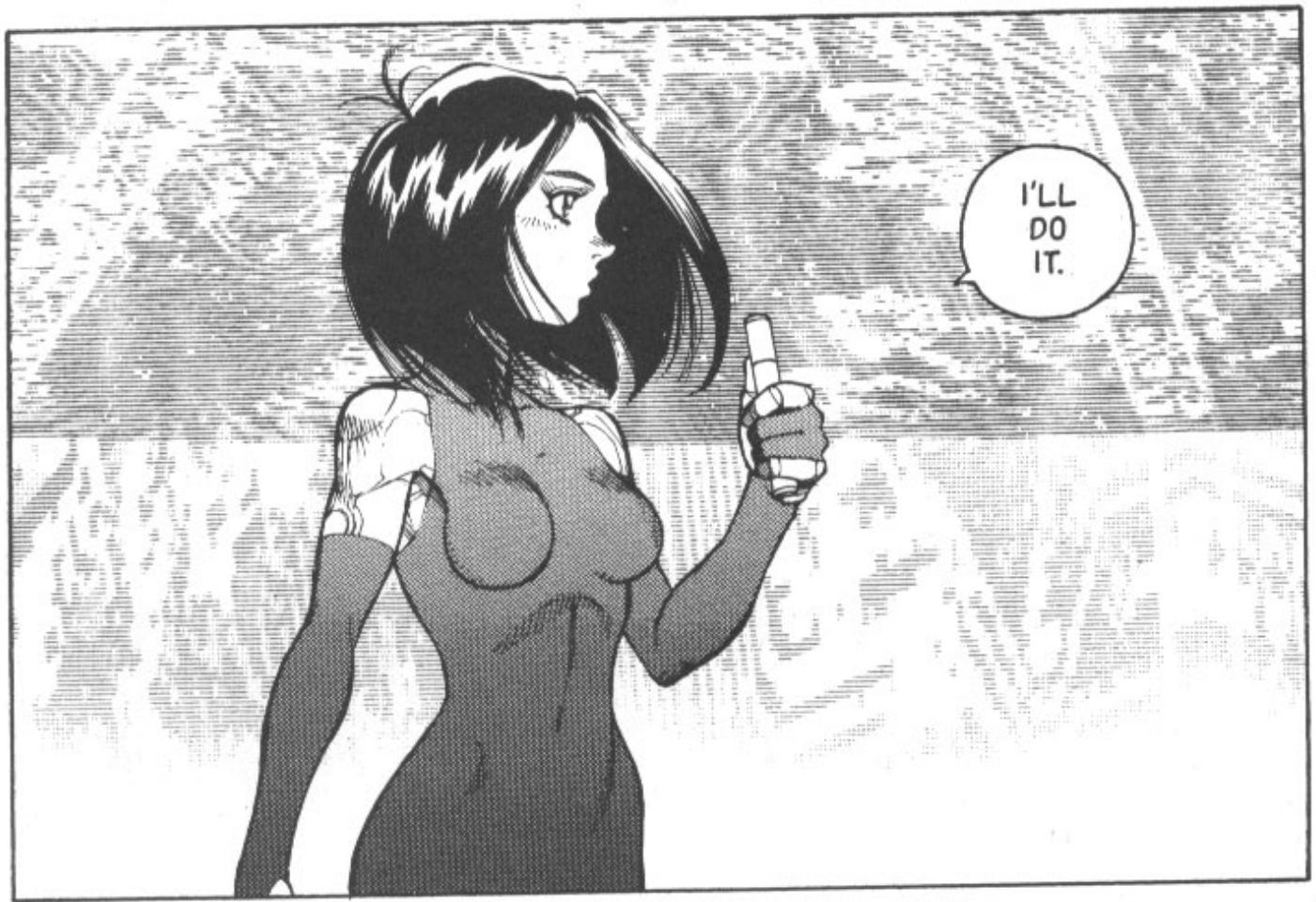
"FUSE WITH..."?!
ARE YOU USING
ALITA AS SOME
KIND OF *GLUE*
TO HOLD IT ALL
TOGETHER!?
WHAT ABOUT
HER!?

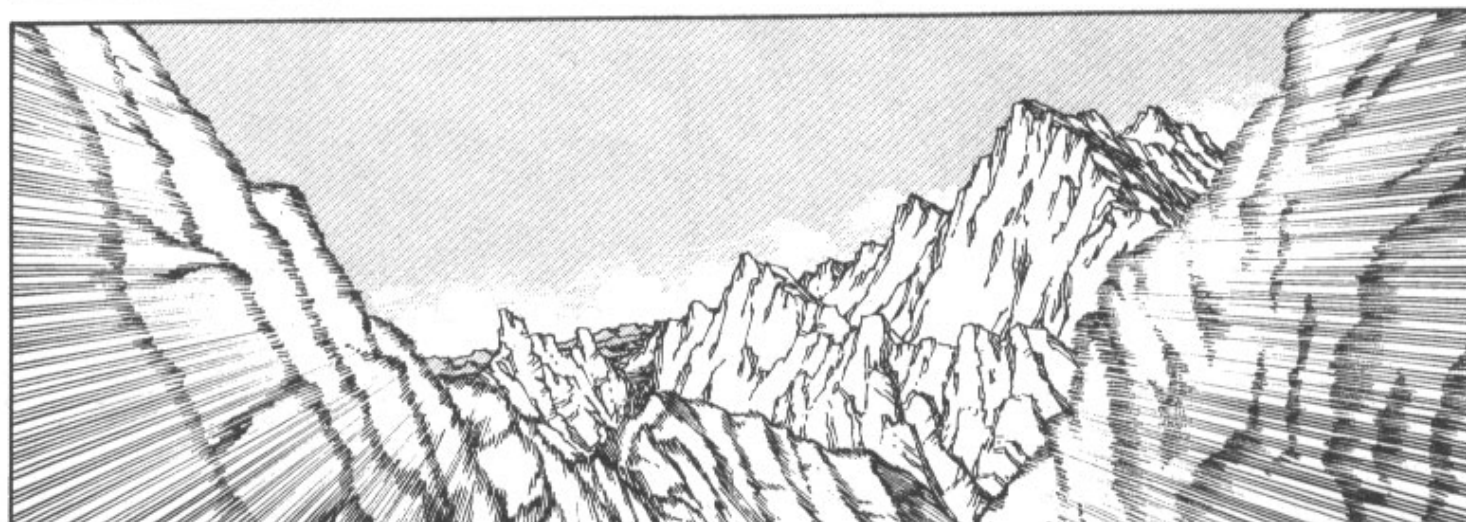
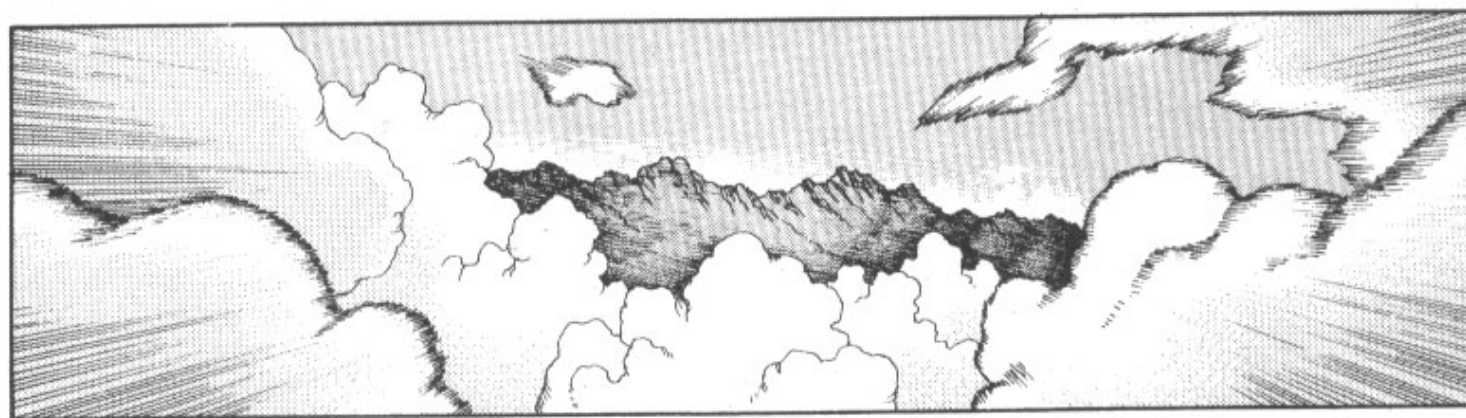


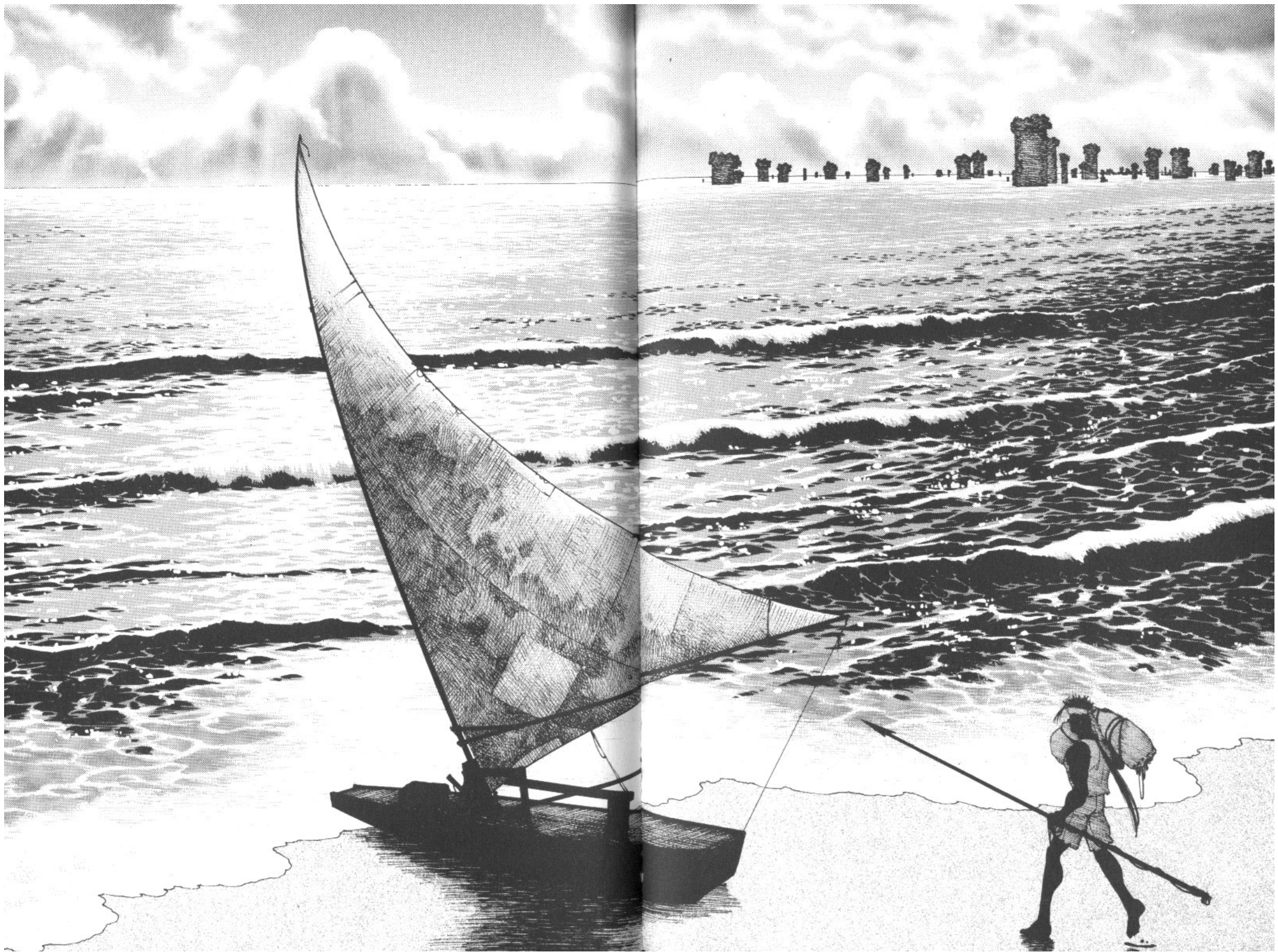
SHE
WILL
NEVER
RETURN.

NO!
SHE
CAN'T
GO!





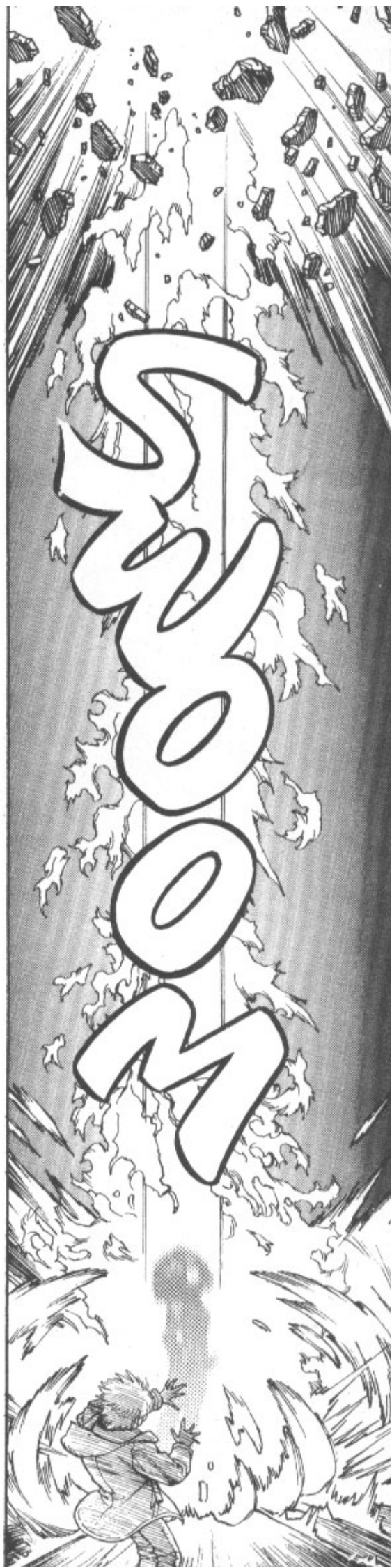
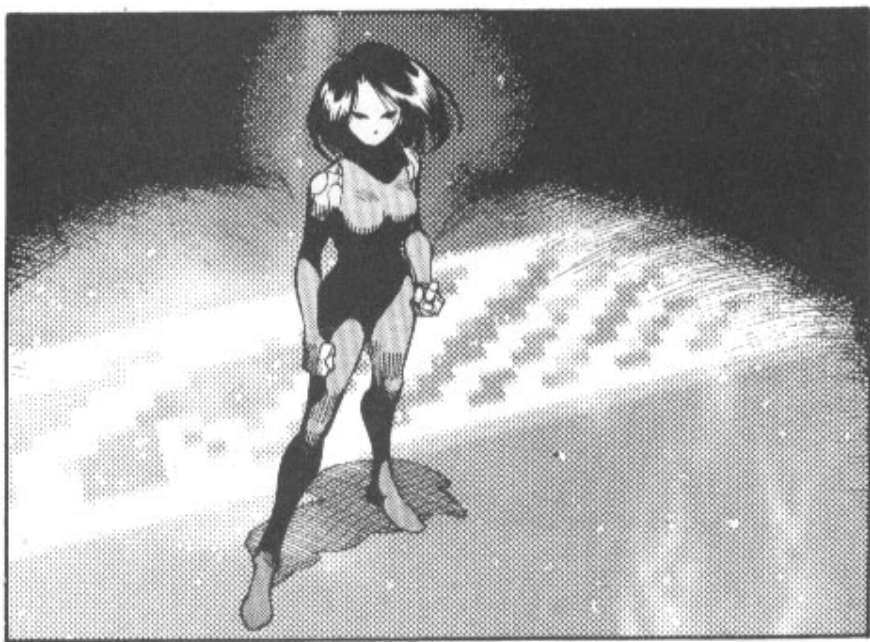
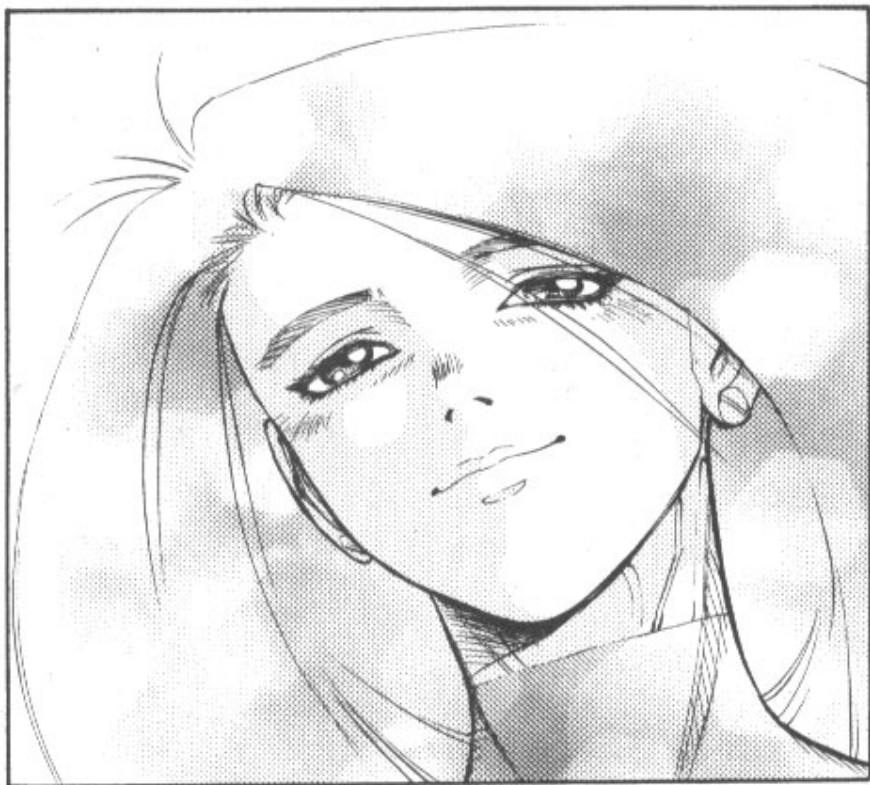






I'M
SORRY...





SHOCK



DAMN...I
SHOULDN'T
HAVE TOLD
HER...

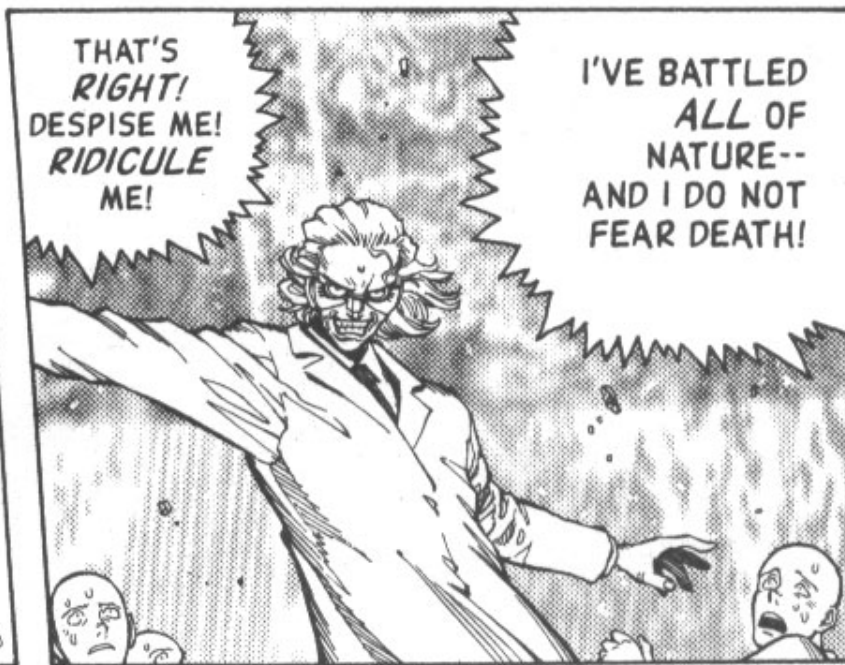
I SHOULD
HAVE KEPT
QUIET
ABOUT THE
TRIGGER.

I WISH
YOU
FAILURE,
ALITA!





WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, PROFESSOR NOVA! AFTER ALL, YOU'RE THE CAUSE OF ALL THIS!



THAT'S *RIGHT!*
DESPISE ME!
RIDICULE
ME!

I'VE BATTLED
ALL OF
NATURE--
AND I DO NOT
FEAR DEATH!



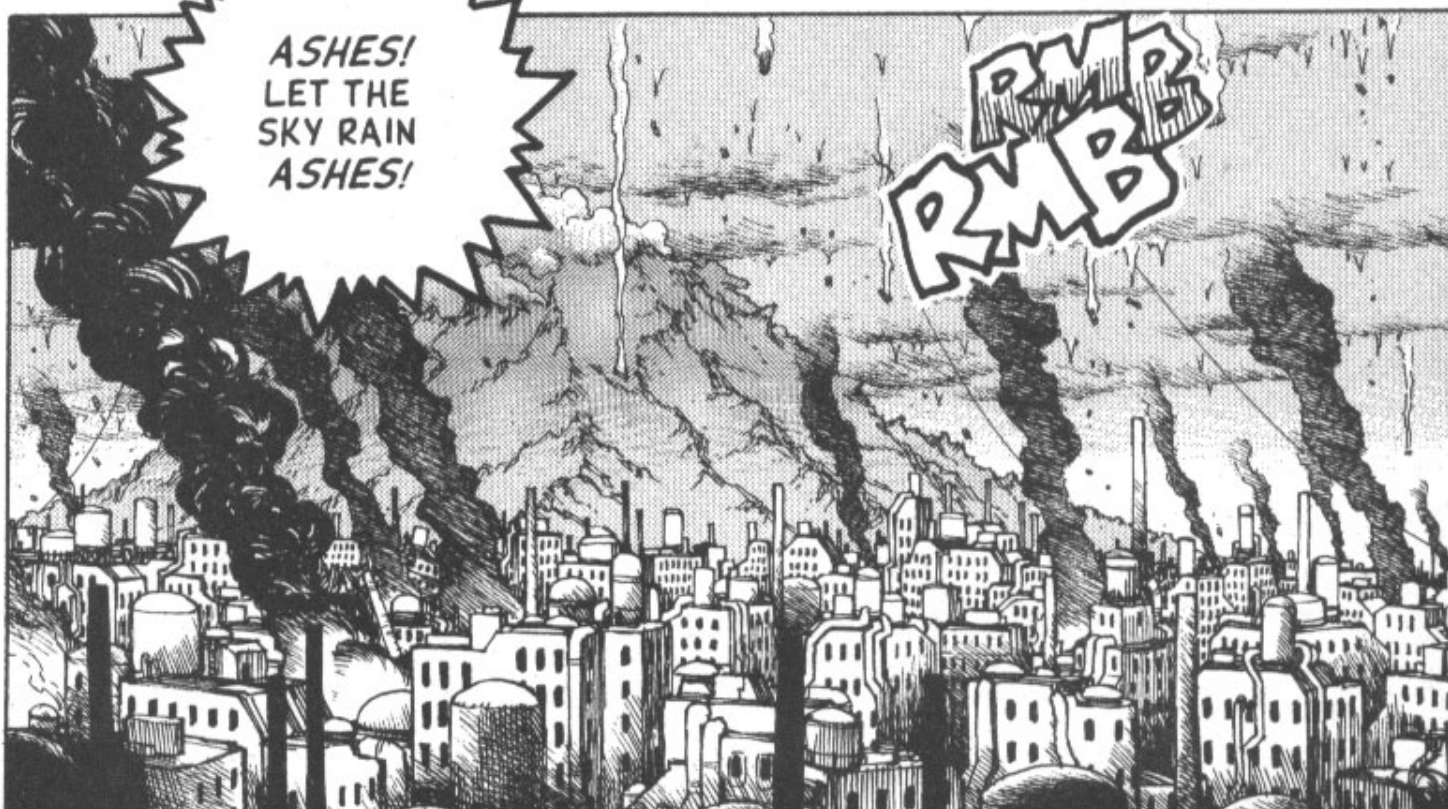
BUT *ONE*
THING I
CANNOT
BEAR...

...IS TO BE
RESCUED BY
THE
SELFLESSNESS
OF MY OWN
EXPERIMENTAL
SUBJECT!



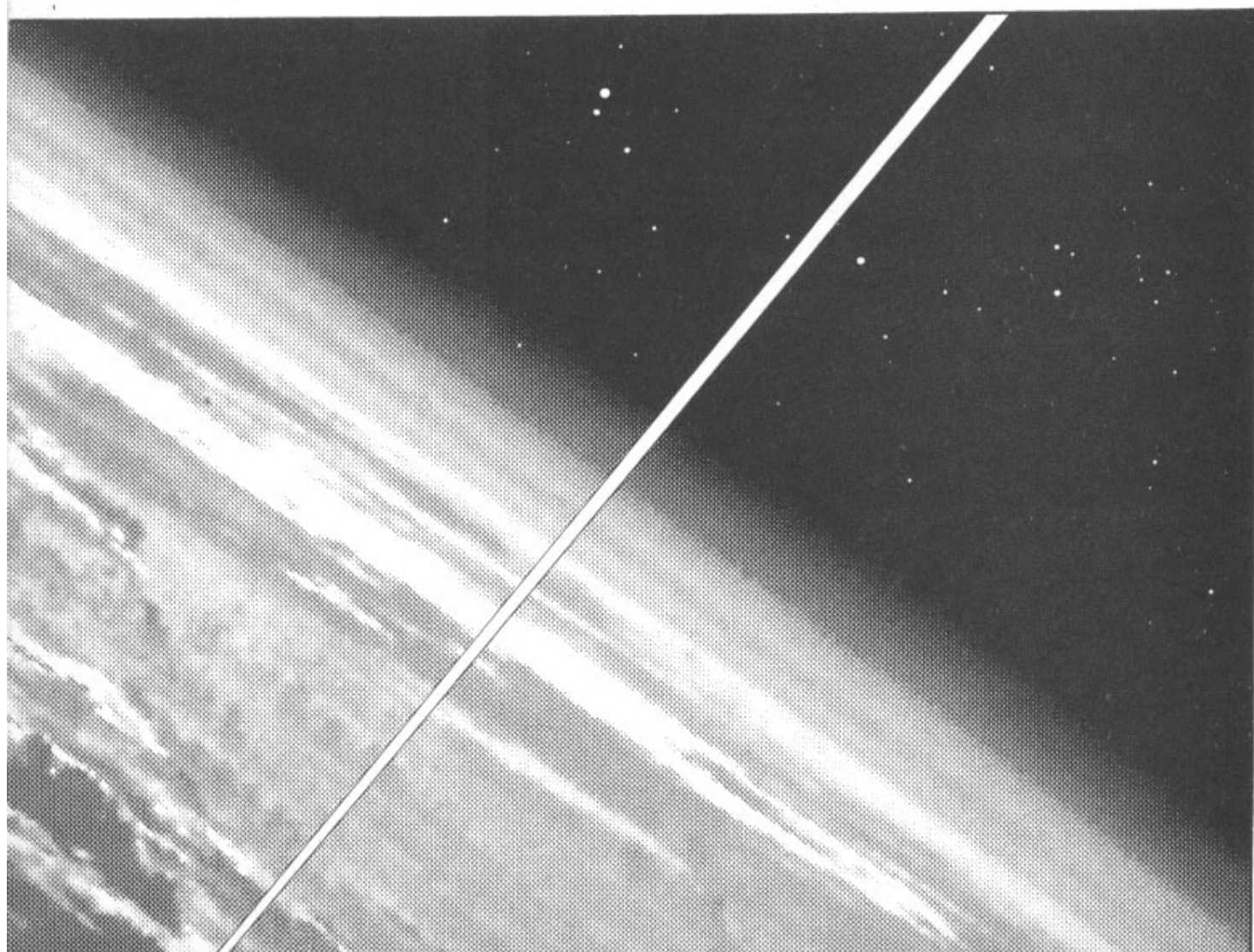
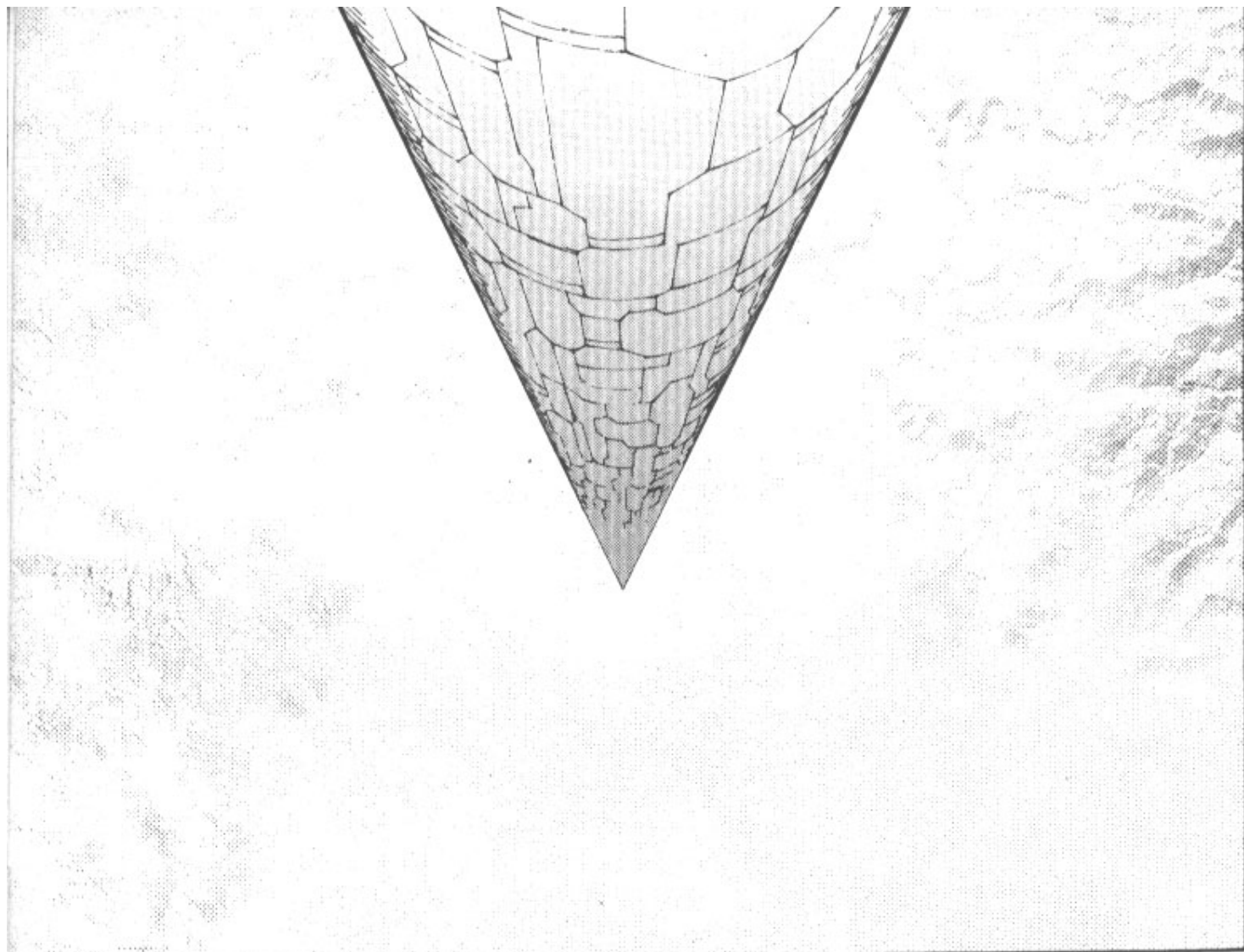
I WOULD
RATHER
SUFFER *HELL*
ITSELF...

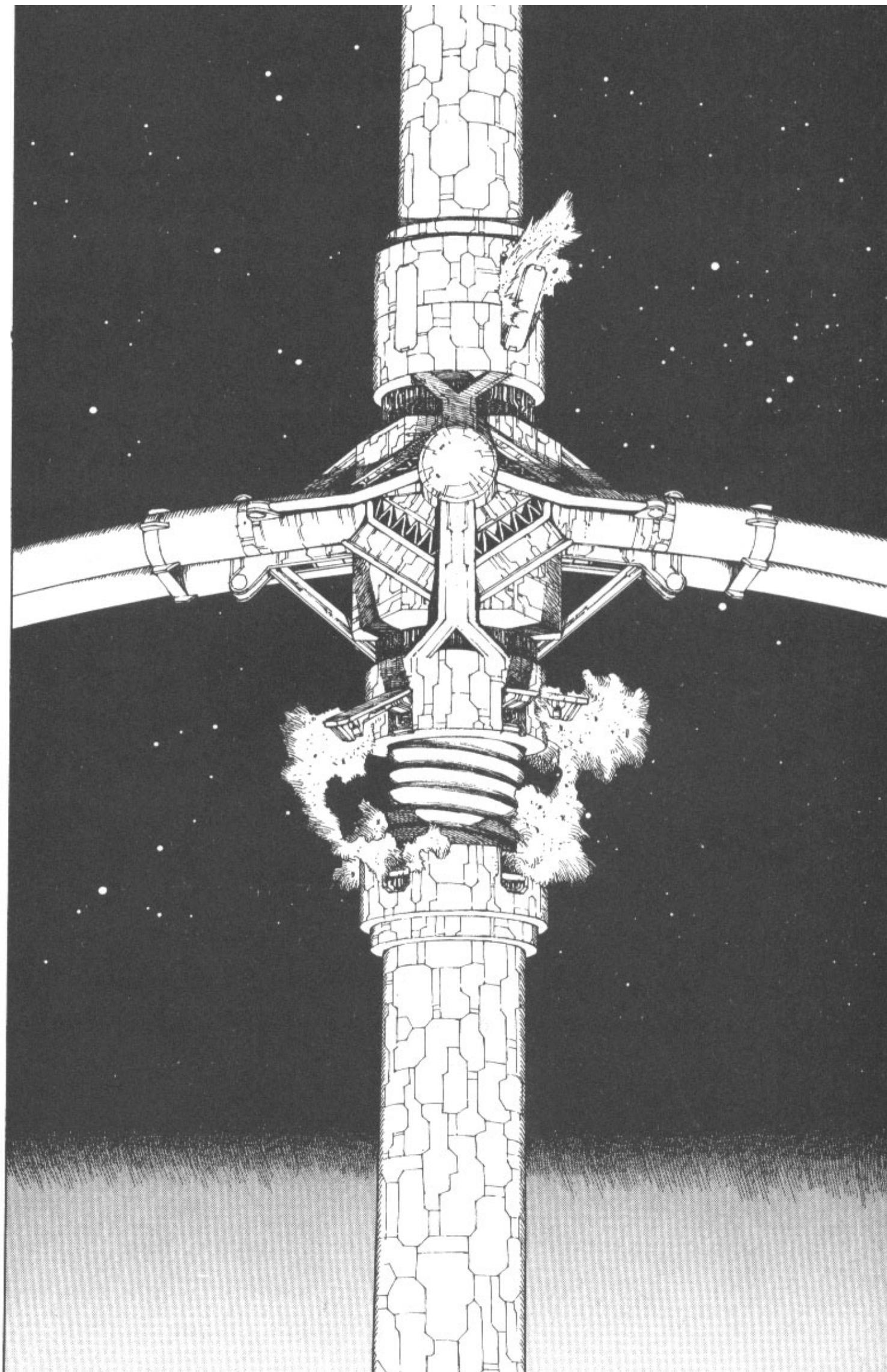
...THAN BE
SAVED
BY THAT
GIRL'S
KINDNESS
!

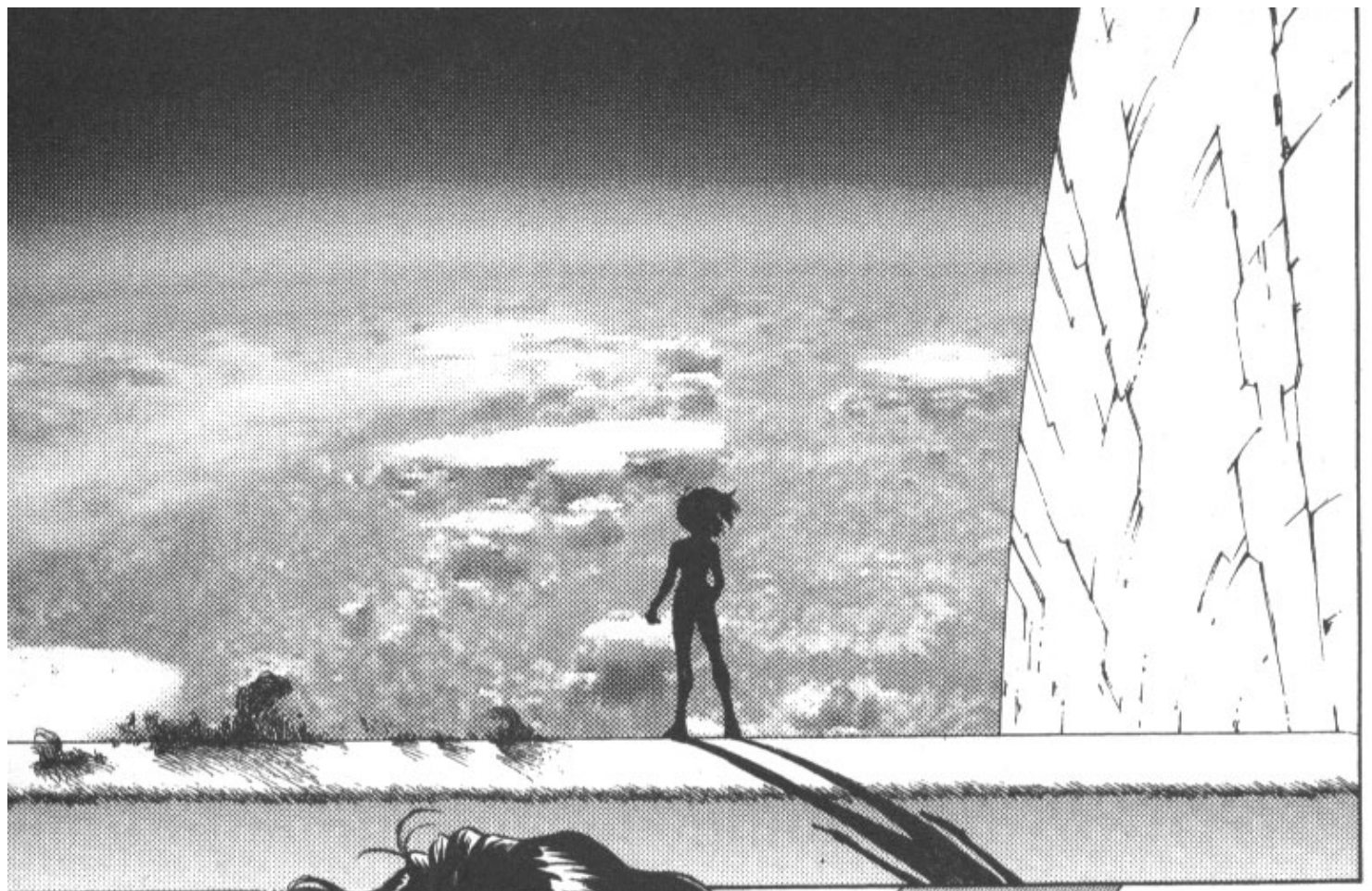


ASHES!
LET THE
SKY RAIN
ASHES!

RMB
RMB







SO
BLUE...



JUST LIKE I
REMEMBER
SEEING IT ...
SO LONG AGO.



IS IT
BECAUSE
OF THE
VACUUM
OF
SPACE...

... THAT I
CAN'T SHED
ANY TEARS
?



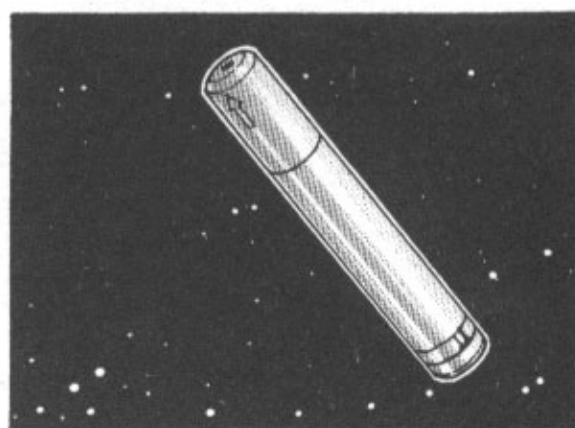


I'VE NEVER
BEEN SO
LONELY...

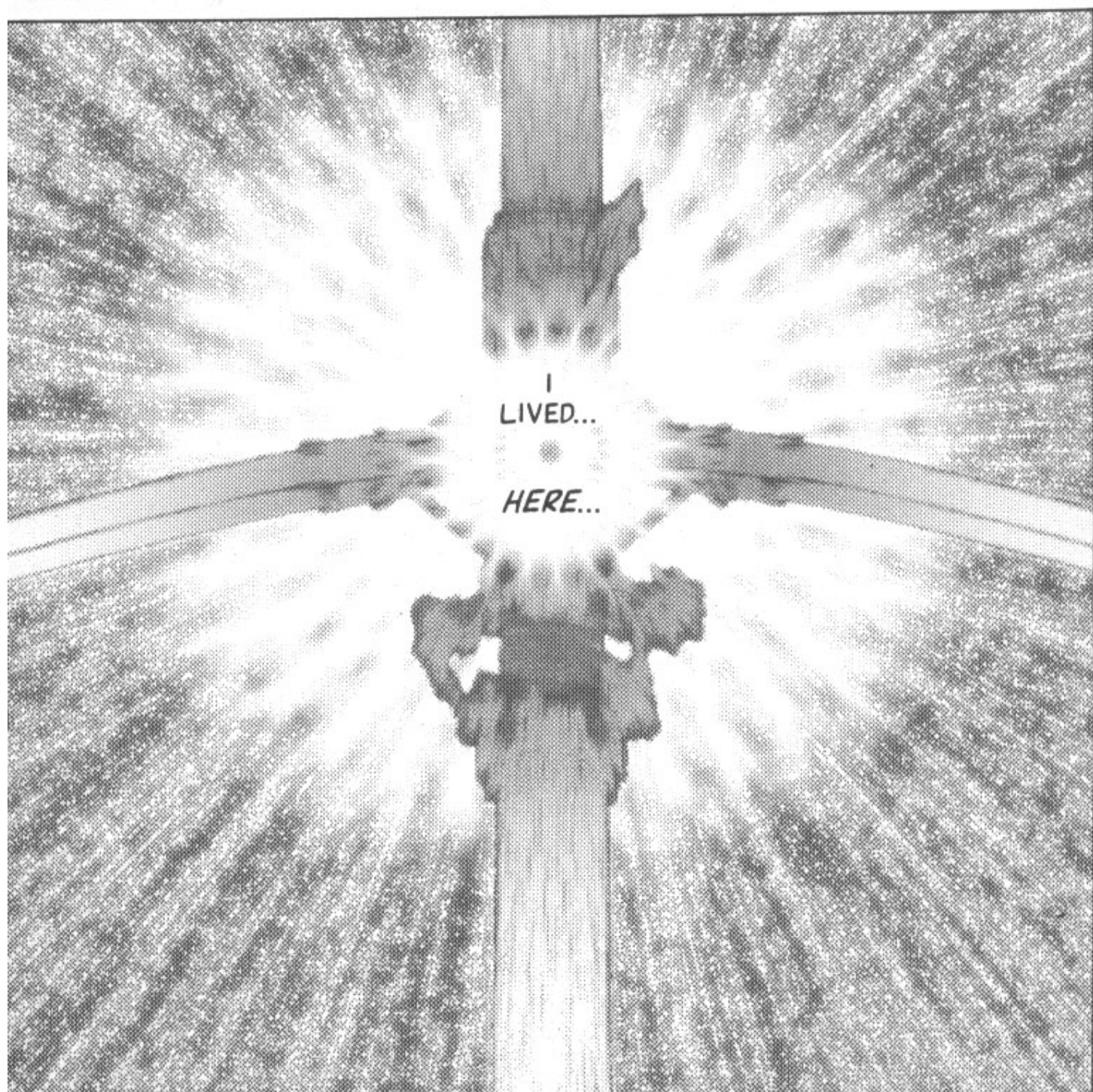
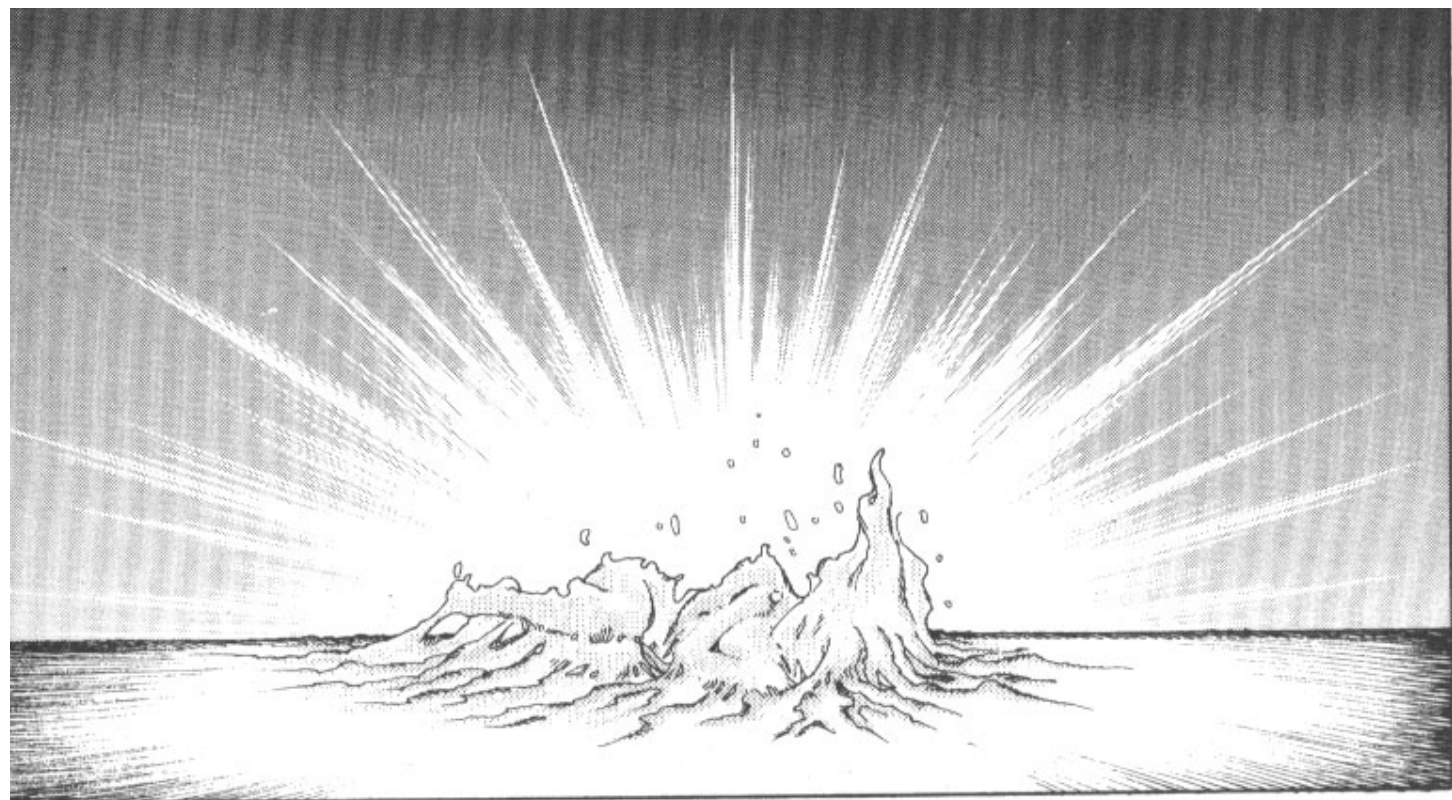
...NEVER
BEEN
SO
SAD...

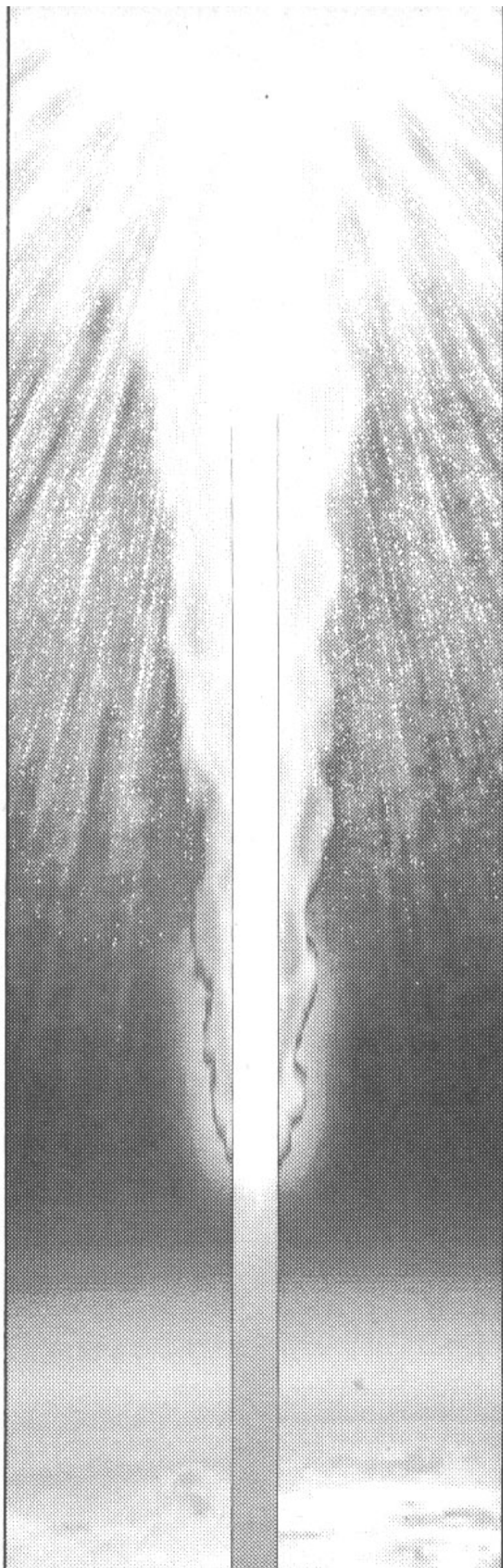
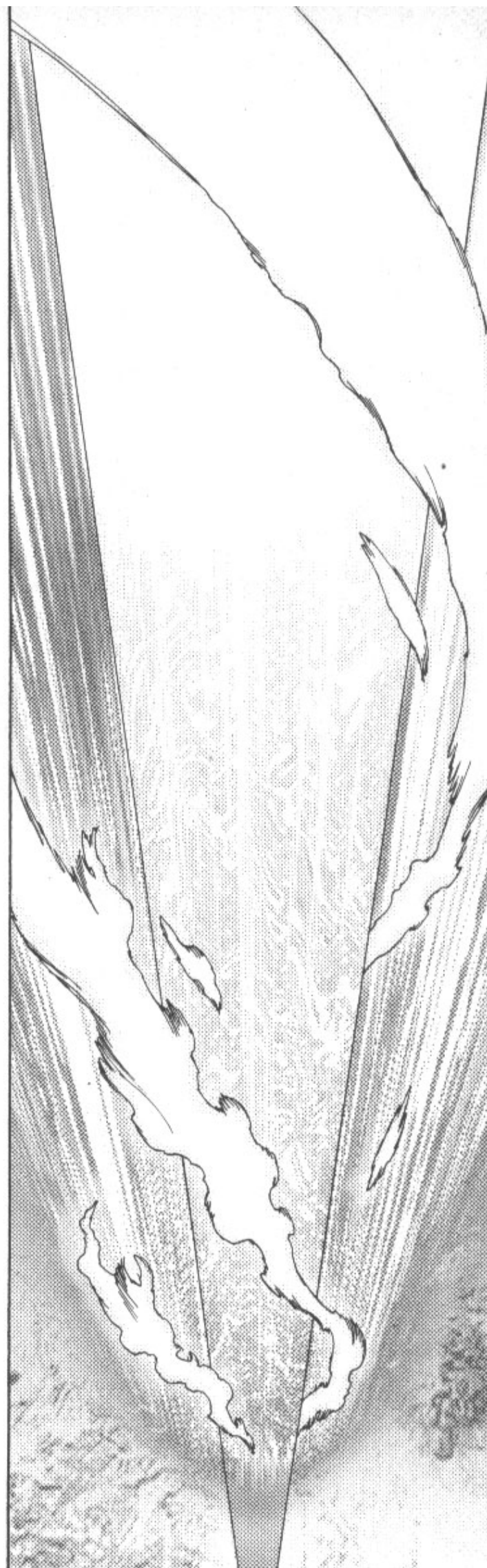


BUT ALL THESE
FEELINGS....
THEY'LL LEAVE
ME SOON.



I'M
RIGHT
HERE...

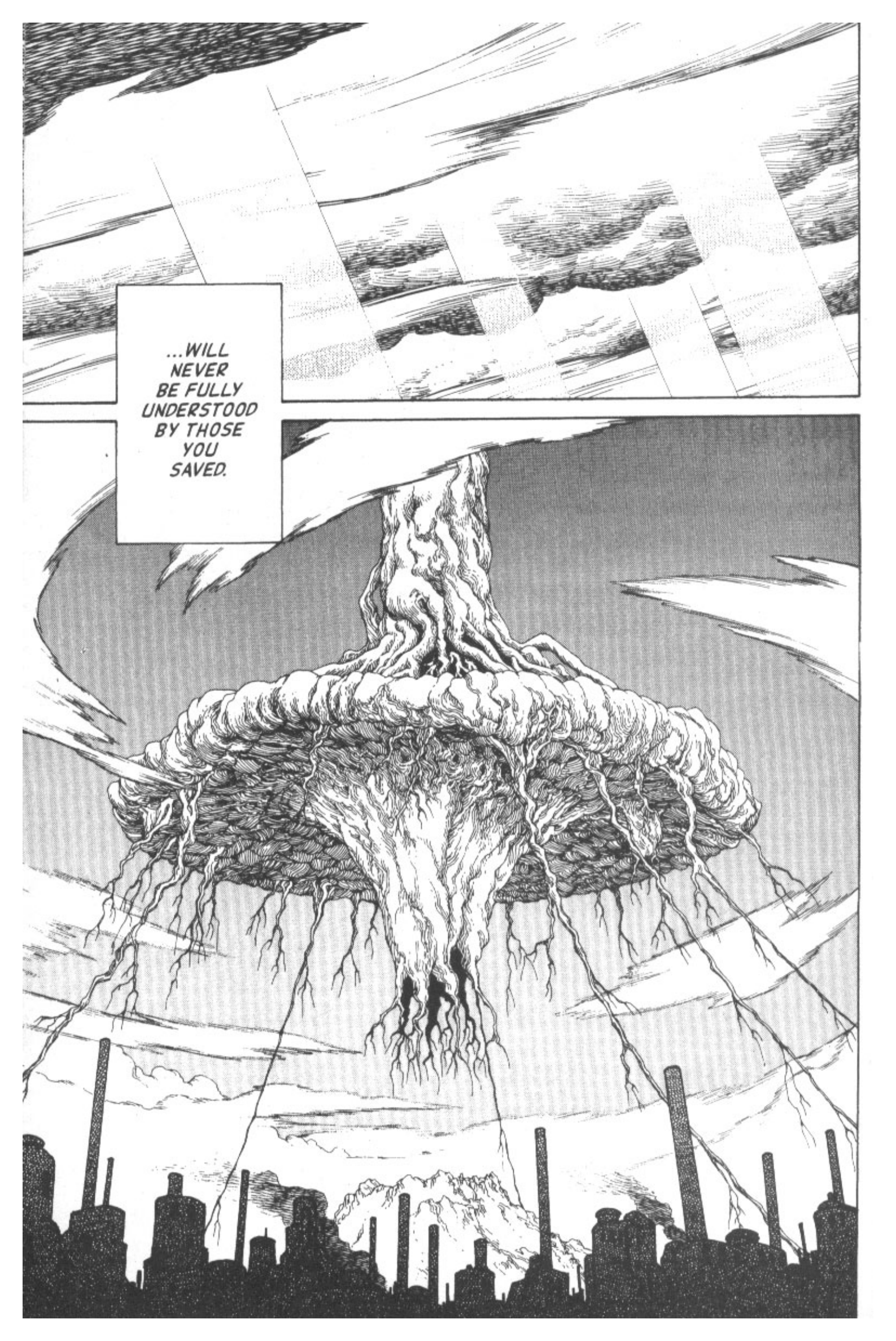




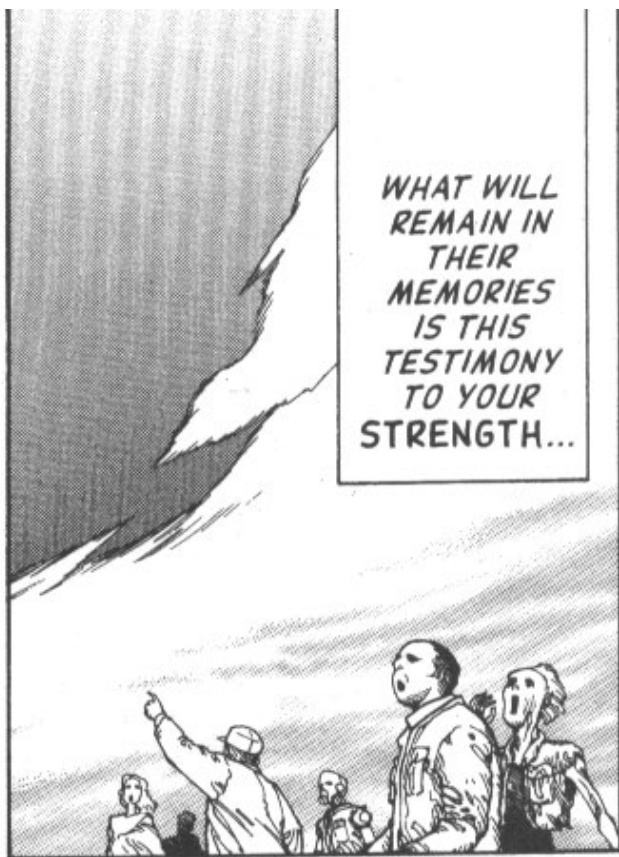


HUH...
?





*...WILL
NEVER
BE FULLY
UNDERSTOOD
BY THOSE
YOU
SAVED.*



WHAT WILL
REMAIN IN
THEIR
MEMORIES
IS THIS
TESTIMONY
TO YOUR
STRENGTH...



WHAT
DO WE
DESIRE
OUT OF
LIFE
IN THIS
WORLD
?



P-
PROFESSOR
NOVA...!

KYA-
HAHA
!

LOOK
AT THE
BIG PRETTY
TREE THAT
GREW!

MAYBE I
CAN FIND
A DUNG
BEETLE...!
OR A LADY-
BUG, EVEN!



WHAT
DO WE
DESIRE
?



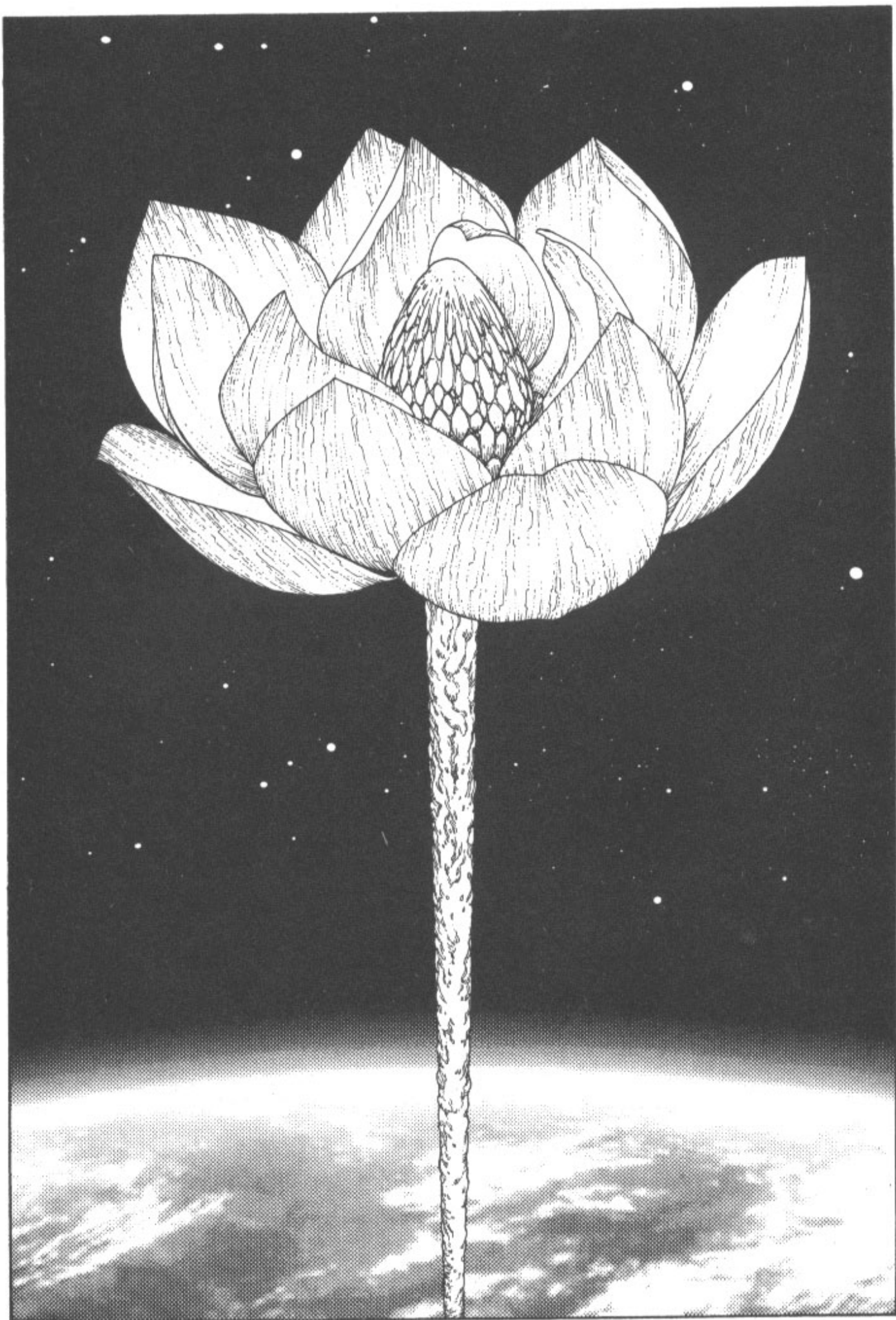
WHAT DO
WE HAVE
TO SHOW
FOR
OURSELVES
?



WE
ACCOMPLISH
NOTHING IF
WE FEAR
FAILURE...

KYA,
KYA!

IF ONLY
WE
COULD
BE
STRONGER...



EPILOGUE



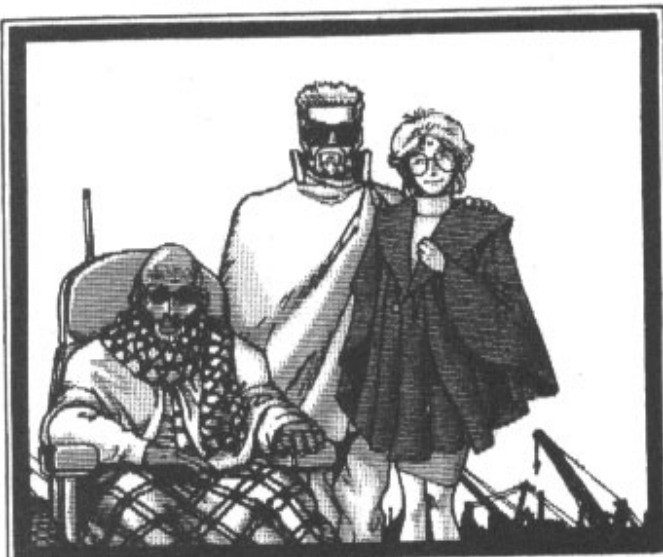
BARJACK WAR CHRONICLE

B.B. BUICK
AND
KOYOMI K.

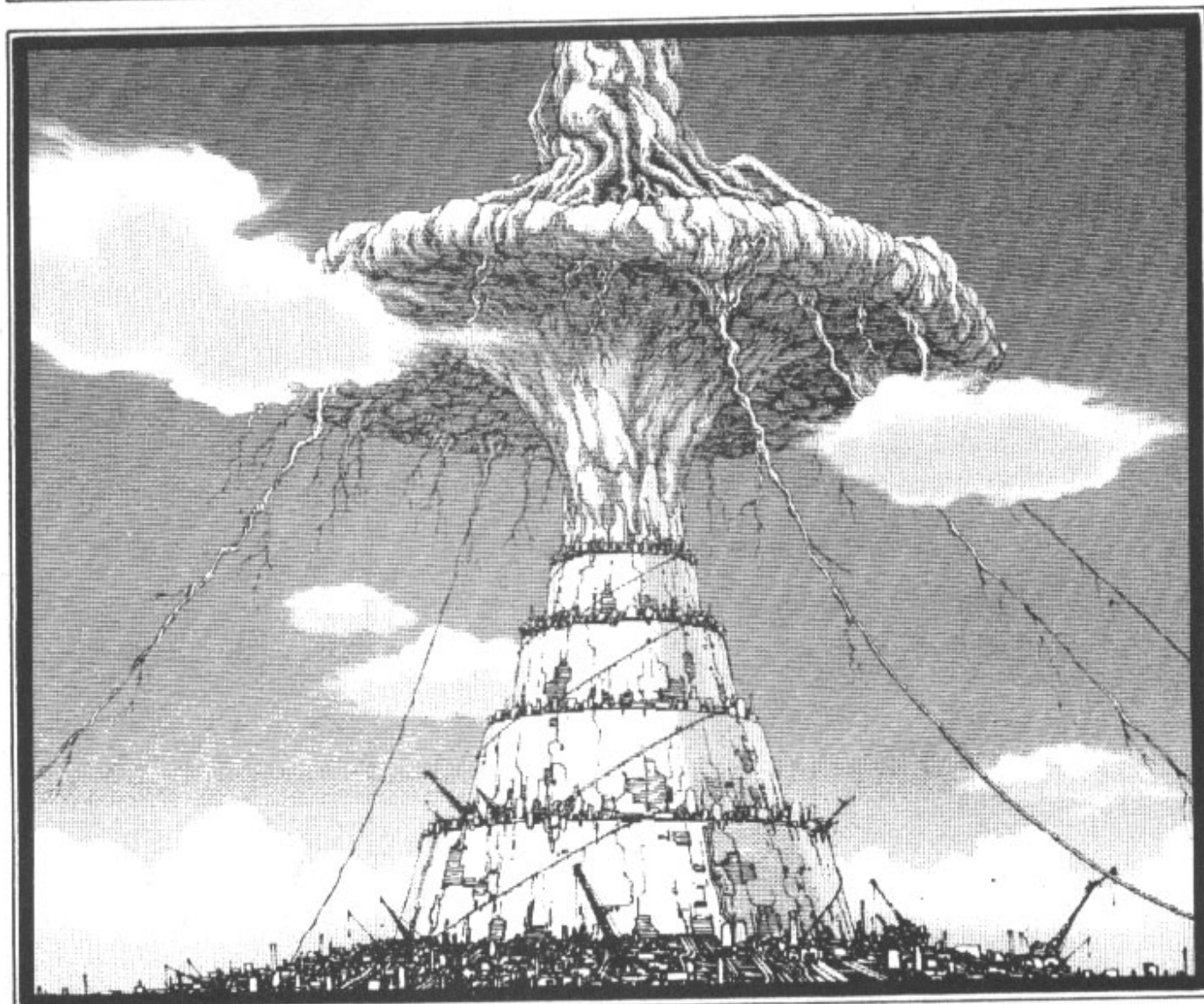
WHEN SHE WAS FIFTEEN, KOYOMI COMPILED
BUICK'S PHOTOGRAPHS INTO A BOOK. IT CONTAINED
A VOCAL DATA CHIP RECORDING OF A RARE INTERVIEW
WITH DEN HIMSELF. THE BOOK BECAME THE
SCRAPYARD'S GREATEST BESTSELLER ON RECORD.



WITH THE REVENUE FROM BARJACK WAR CHRONICLE, KOYOMI'S FATHER OPENED THE FOURTH INCARNATION OF HIS BAR KANSAS. THIS TIME, BUSINESS SEEMS TO BE BOOMING.



TOGETHER, VECTOR AND KAOS BROUGHT PEACE TO THE WORLD DURING THE PANIC THAT STRUCK WHEN THE FACTORIES SHUT DOWN. LOU'S STEADFAST LOVE AND SUPPORT WON HER KAOS'S HAND IN MARRIAGE.



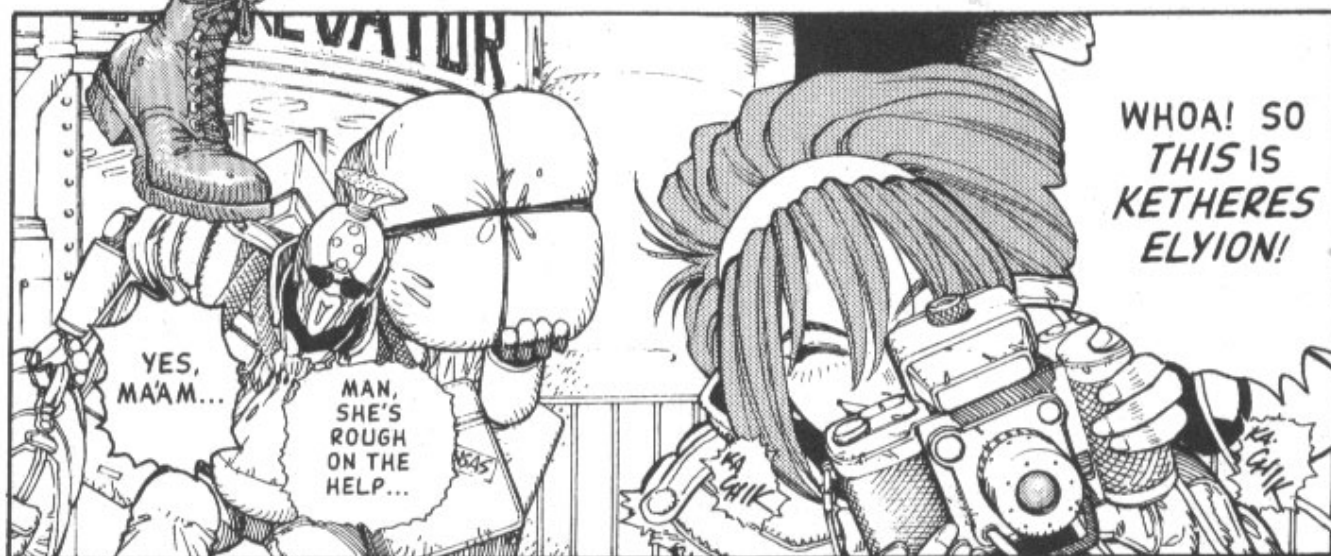
IT TOOK FIVE YEARS TO COMPLETE THE "TOWER OF TIPHARES." THE ARCHITECTURAL ACCOMPLISHMENT IS RECORDED IN A SERIES OF PHOTOS BY KOYOMI, AND WILL BE RELEASED IN HER UPCOMING BOOK, TOWER TO THE HEAVENS, ON SALE NEXT MONTH. (RESERVE YOUR COPIES NOW!)

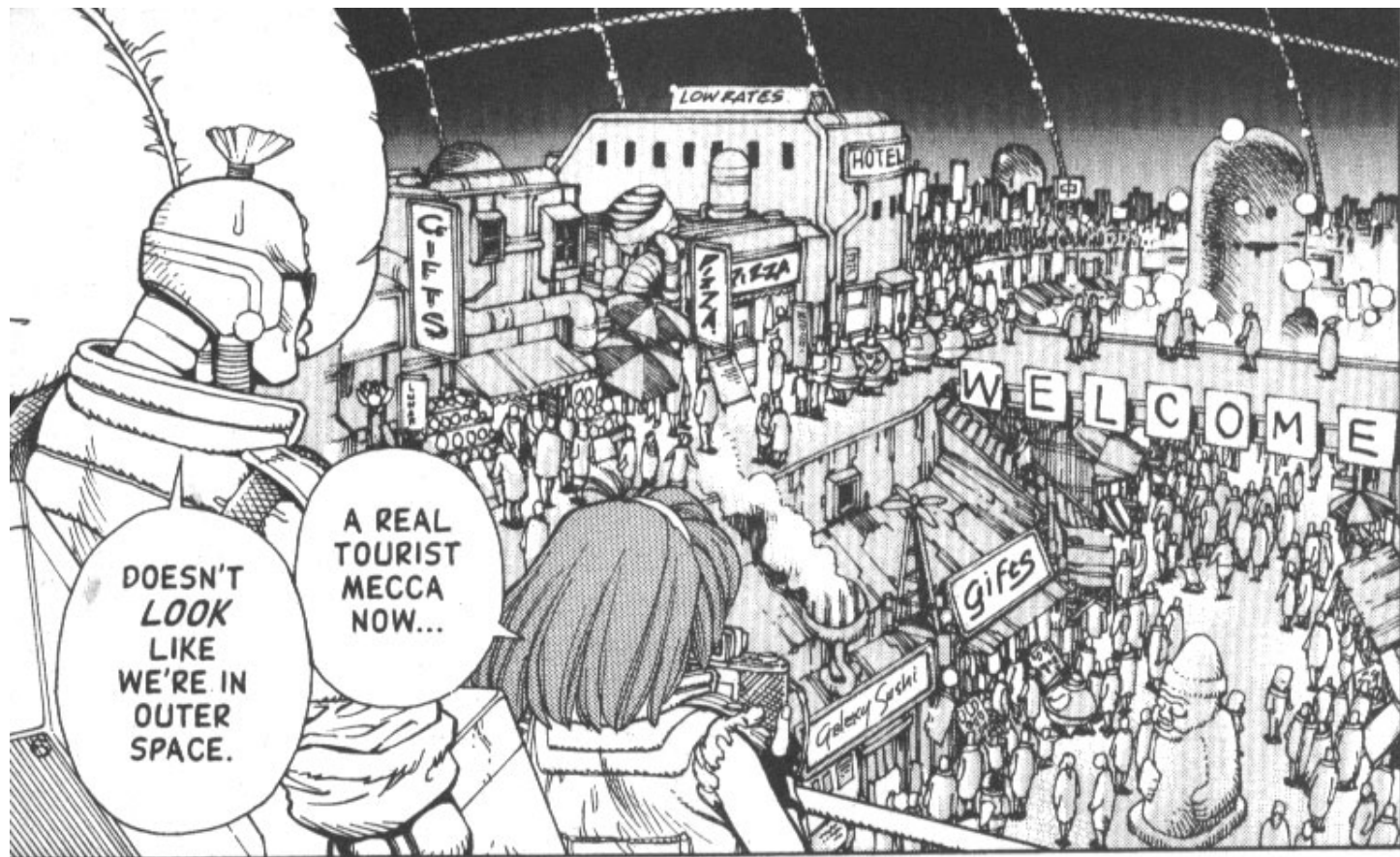


C'MON,
OR I'LL
LEAVE YOU
BEHIND!

FIVE YEARS LATER.
KOYOMI, AGE 18.
PROFESSION: FREELANCE
PHOTOGRAPHER.

MY NEXT BOOK
WILL BE CALLED
UNSUNG HERO, ALITA!
(ALTHOUGH I AIN'T
ALL THAT GOOD AT
WRITING STUFF.)



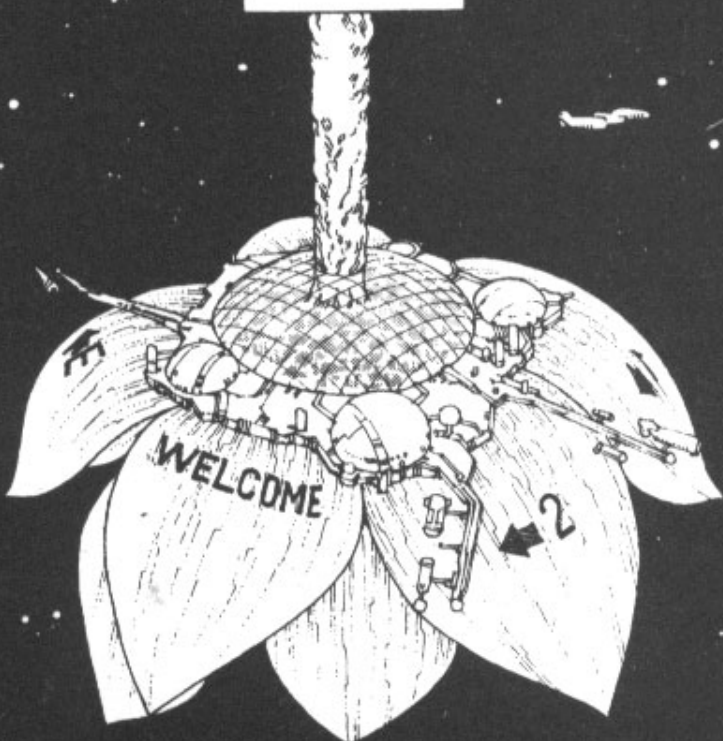


DOESN'T
LOOK
LIKE
WE'RE IN
OUTER
SPACE.

A REAL
TOURIST
MECCA
NOW...

ONCE
KETHERES
WAS THE
HEAD-
QUARTERS
OF
LADDER...

...BUT, SINCE
THE
CHANGE,
IT'S CALLED
"THE TREE
OF LIFE."



THE REASON I
CAME HERE?
RUMOR HAD IT
THAT A MAN
WHO MIGHT BE
NOVA HAD
BEEN SPOTTED
UP HERE.



I HEARD HE
WENT CRAZY
(SOME SAY HE WAS
ALREADY CRAZY),
BUT I WAS
HOPING TO GET
MORE MATERIAL
FOR MY BOOK-IF I
COULD FIND HIM.

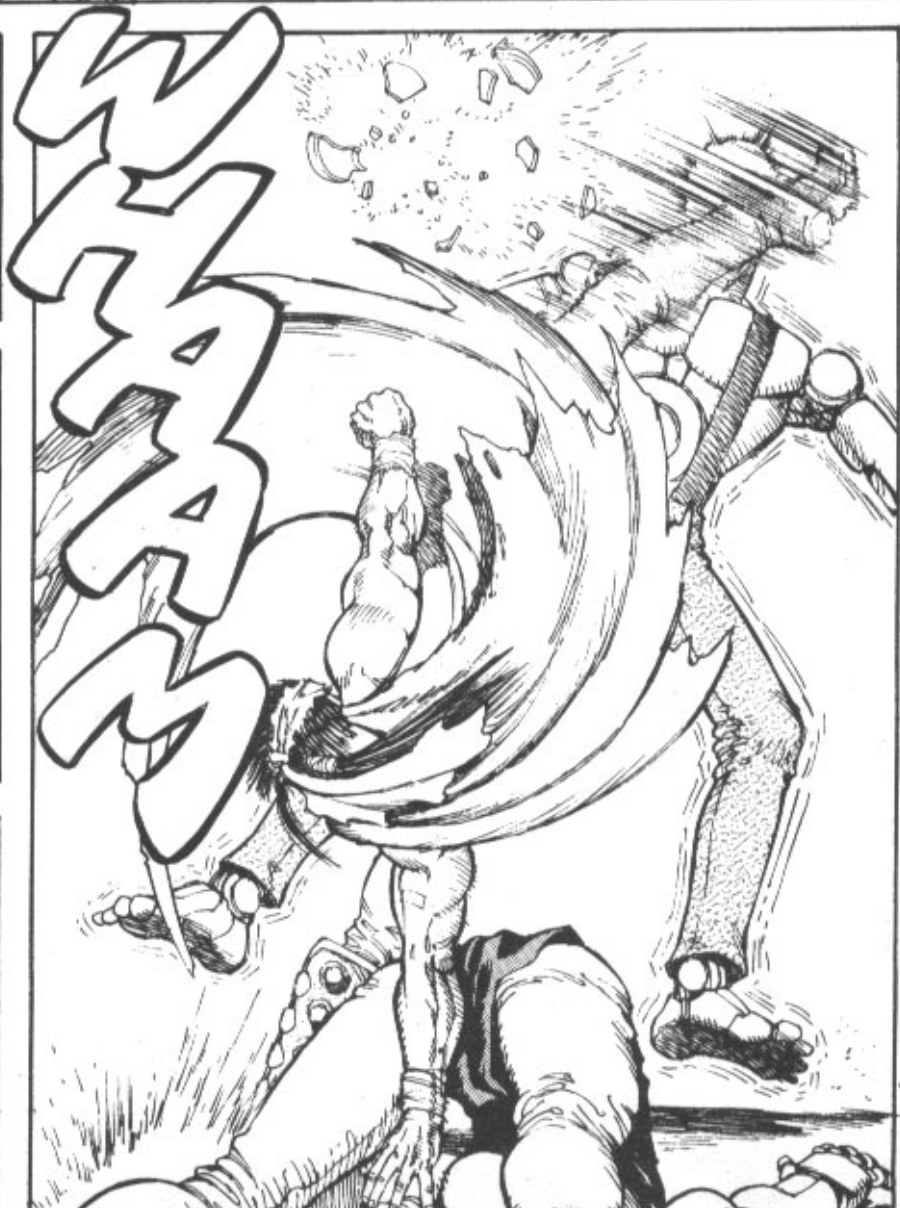


IT'S A
FIGHT!
A FIGHT!

OOOH!
WHERE!?

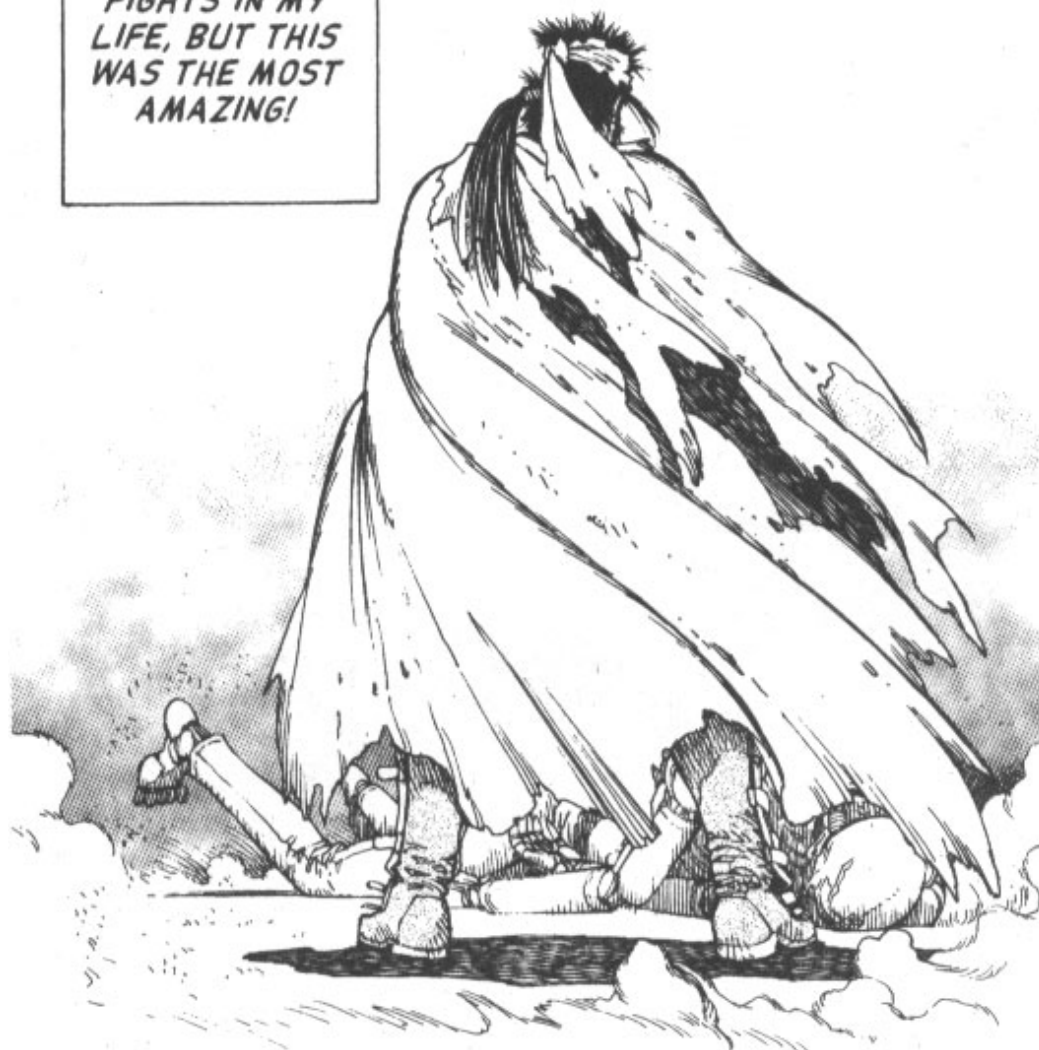








I'D SEEN A
LOT OF
FIGHTS IN MY
LIFE, BUT THIS
WAS THE MOST
AMAZING!



I MADE A
KILLING
BETTING
ON YOU!
DINNER'S
ON ME!



THE MAN
INTRODUCED
HIMSELF AS
"FIGURE"...



DID HE
SAY
"FIGURE"..
!?

WHAT LUCK!
LOU TOLD ME
THIS GUY
WAS ALITA'S
BOYFRIEND!



I HAD TO
INTERVIEW
HIM ABOUT
ALITA'S
ADVENTURE--
AND HER
DEATH...!



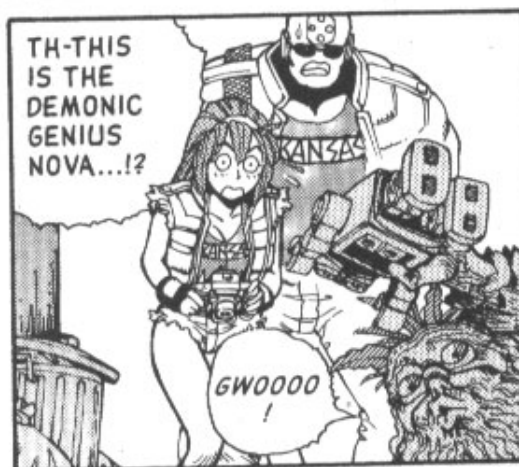
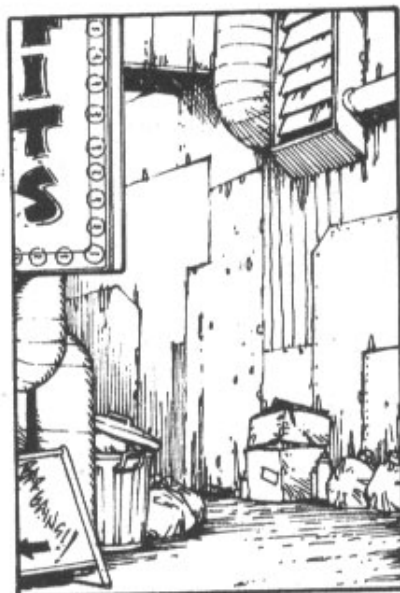
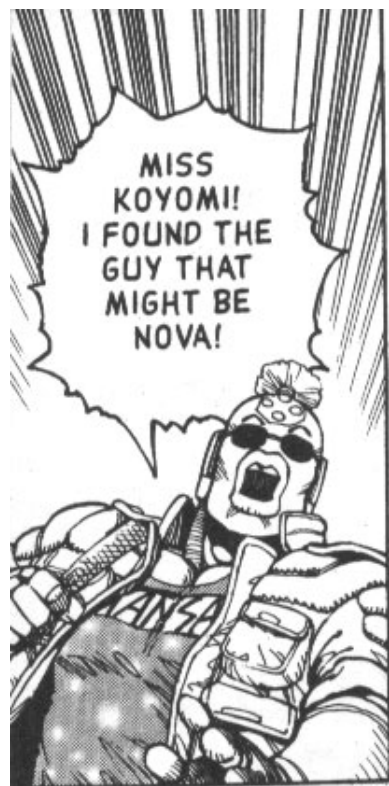
**ALITA IS
NOT DEAD!**

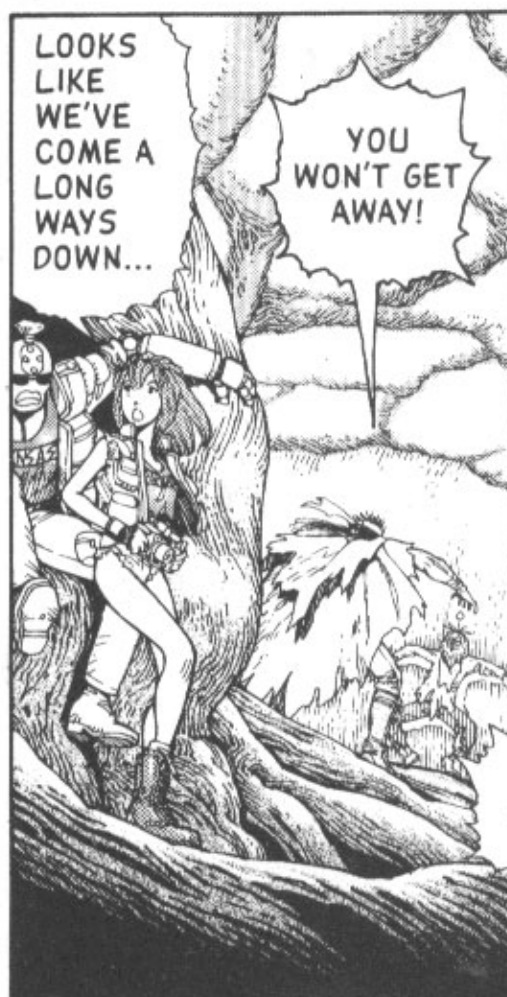


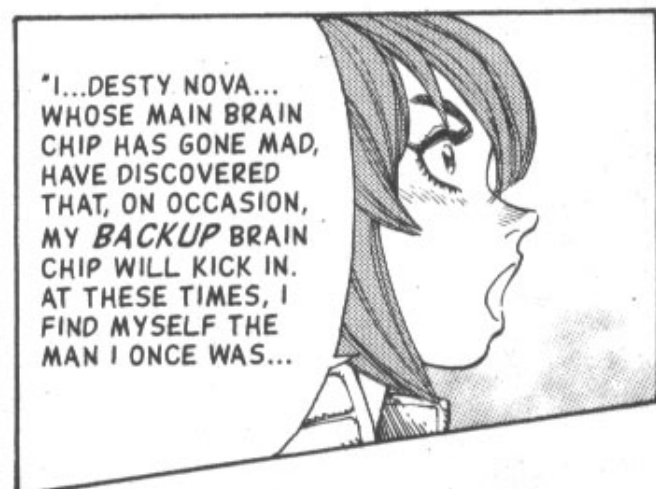
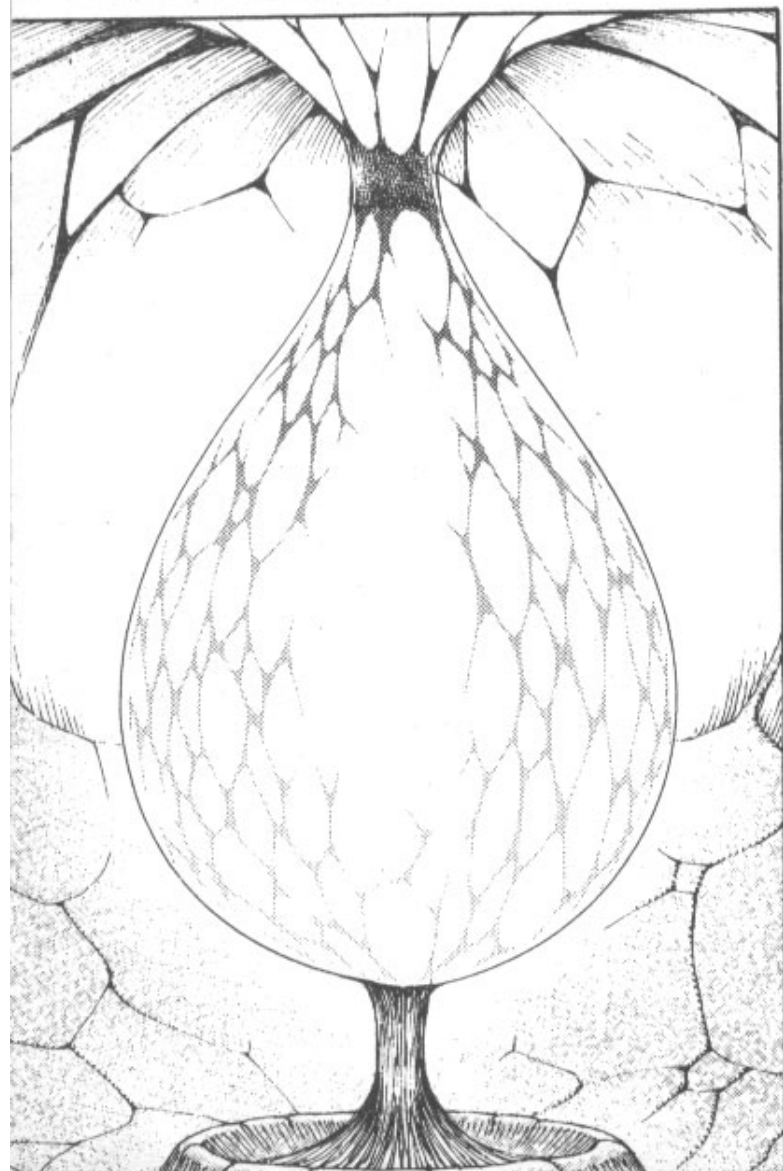
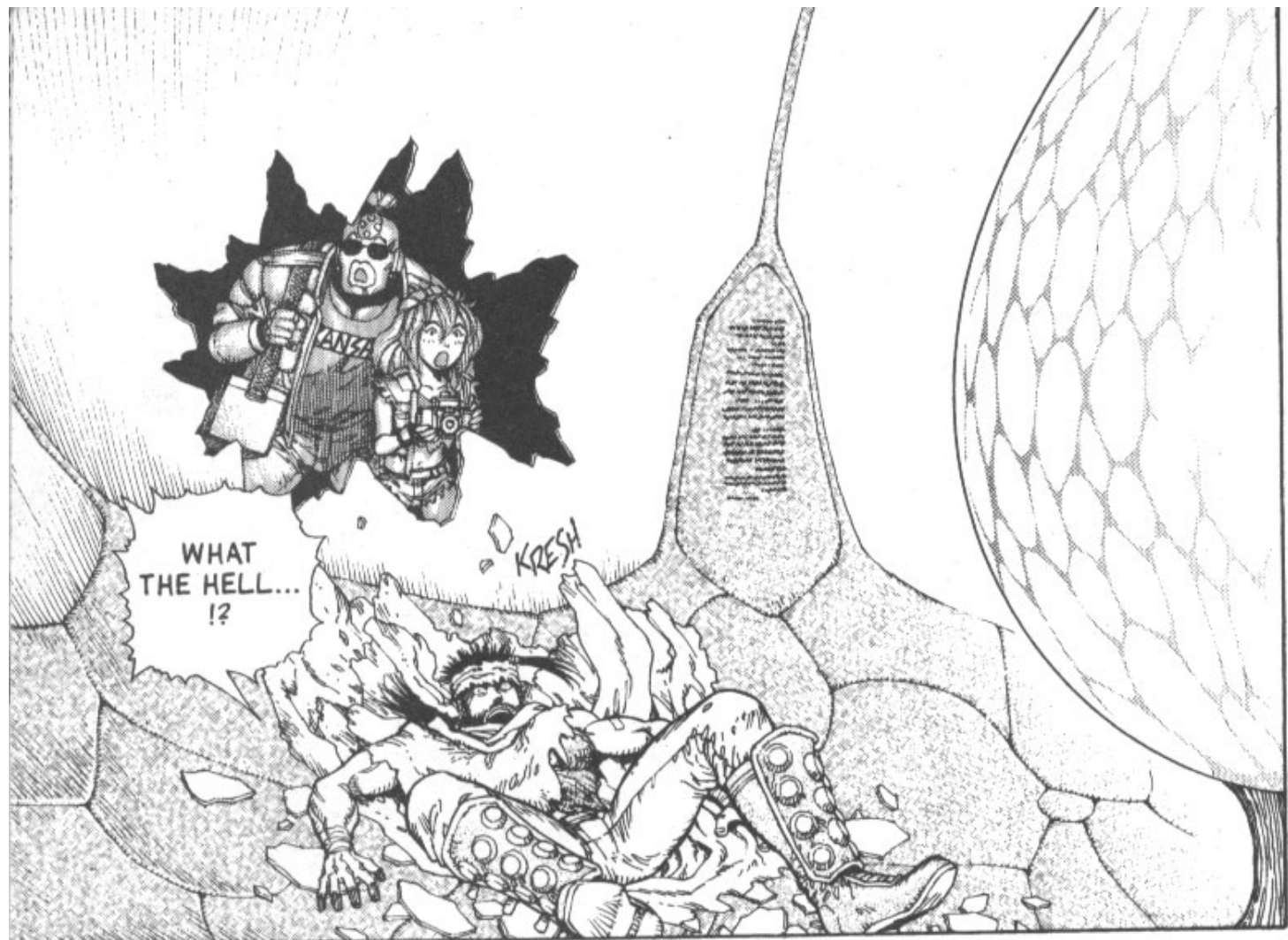
**SHE
PROMISED
ME SHE'D
COME
BACK!**

**SO SHE'S
GOT TO
BE ALIVE
SOME-
WHERE!**







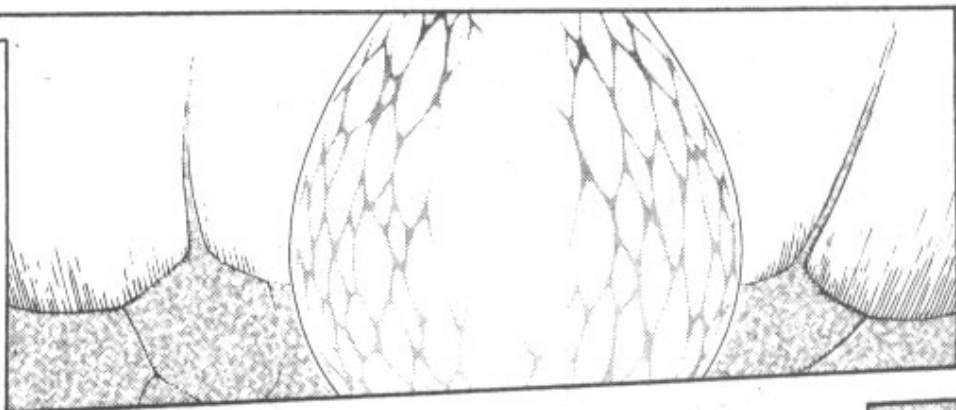


...AND I'VE
TAKEN THESE
OPPORTUNITIES
TO PERFORM
RESEARCH ON
THE STRUCTURE
OF THE
LIFE-TREE.

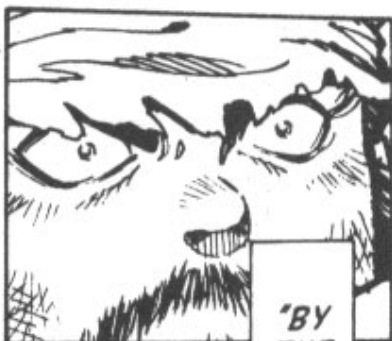


"THE TREE OF
LIFE HAS, AS ITS
MOLECULAR BASE,
A CARBON NANO-TUBE.*
ITS NANO-MACHINE
CELLULAR STRUCTURE
IS EXTREMELY
DURABLE, YET
HARMONICALLY
BALANCED IN ITS
REGENERATIVE
METABOLISM.

"HOWEVER,
UNDERSTANDING
HOW THIS UNIQUE
MOLECULAR DESIGN
CAME TO BE WILL
REQUIRE
CONSIDERABLE
FURTHER
RESEARCH...



"PERHAPS IT
MAY LEAD TO A
WAY TO FULFILL
MY LIFELONG
QUEST TO
ESCAPE
THE BOUNDS
OF KARMA.



"BY
THE
WAY...



*CARBON NANO-TUBE: A PARTICLE MADE UP OF CIRCULAR CARBON ATOMS.
ITS STRUCTURE IS EXTREMELY COMPLETE, MAKING IT HIGHLY HEAT
RESISTANT AND MECHANICALLY SOUND.



...I'VE DISCOVERED
TRACES OF ALITA'S
GENETIC CODE STILL
STORED WITHIN THE
NANO-MACHINE
CELLS SCATTERED
THROUGHOUT
THE LIFE-TREE'S
SYSTEMS.



"WITH A
LITTLE NANO-
MANIPULATION,
A COMPLETE
REGENERATION
MAY BE
POSSIBLE...

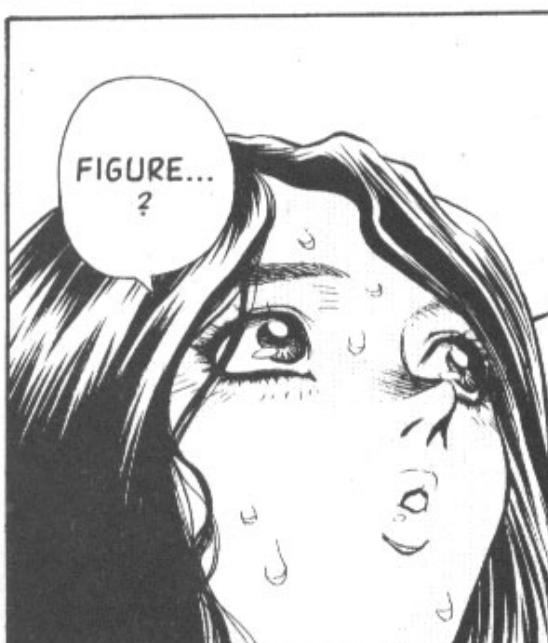


FIGURE...
?

"...EVENTUALLY..."



Finis